New Bedford Protecting Society

Historical Sketch

By Charles S. Kelley

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THE NEW BEDFORD PROTECTING SOCIETY

THE OLDEST PART OF THE NEW BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT AND OLDEST ORGANIZATION OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD

HISTORICAL SKETCH 1829–1907 INCLUSIVE

BY CHARLES S. KELLEY
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

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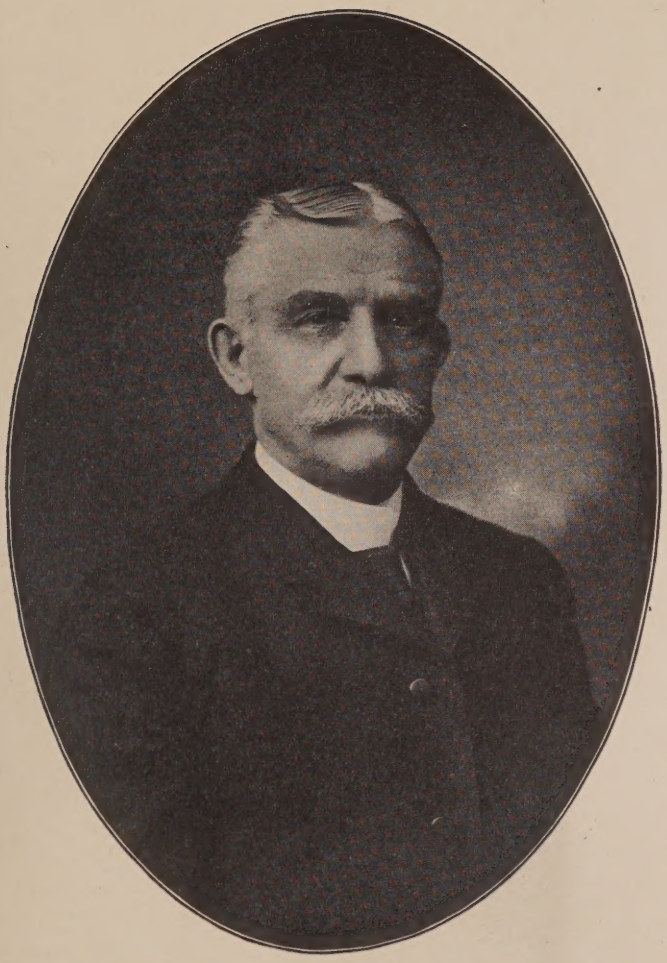

CHARLES S. KELLEY
THE AUTHOR

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THE NEW BEDFORD
PROTECTING SOCIETY

It is a misfortune that the records of the New Bedford Protecting Society from 1829 to 1862 cannot be found. When the writer became president of the society he inquired of the then secretary, the late Edward H. Allen, who informed me that his predecessor in office had been asked repeatedly to turn them over to the society, but he was never able to produce them, stating that they had been mislaid or lost. Since that time search has repeatedly been made for them but without success, so that we have given them up as hopelessly lost.

For many months I have been searching for material that could be handed down as correct history of this the oldest part of the New Bedford fire department and the oldest organization of its kind in the United States and possibly in the world. All of those who were members prior to 1846 have died, so that it has been extremely difficult to get material that is satisfactory. Because of the loss of the records of the society this article must to a certain extent be incomplete. The public is welcome to what I have been able to gather. It follows:

I think this society was formed with a special charter by the legislature conferring upon it extraordinary powers. The society was composed largely of the aristocracy and was for years called the "Kid Glove society." Members were sworn in as special police to serve as such at fires and alarms of fires. I was told years ago that members responded to the fire alarms in the early years of the society in large numbers, and worked faithfully. They expected to respond promptly, no matter what they were doing, or where they were, at the time, or how they were dressed. It was get there and be quick about it, and work hard. Many a good suit of clothes, including silk hats which were worn in those days by the gentry more than now, was ruined by water, smoke and dirt. It was interesting to watch members leave their houses, and stores, responding to the cries of fire, variously garbed with silk hats on and their equipment strapped about them, rushing through the streets, as I saw them in the fifties, and in fact, in later years. During the first few years of my membership I did the same thing. In my boyhood days I used to tag on behind the members, and went to many fires myself. In those days there was no electric fire alarm system. Whoever discovered a fire would run through the streets crying fire! fire!! The cry would be taken up by others and passed along until it reached someone who would ring a church bell, which started others to ringing the other church bells. It was surprising how quickly the bells were rung after a fire was discovered. In short order people were coming from all directions, crying fire in all kinds of tones of voice, and mixing up with engines whose drag ropes were manned by men rushing along to the fire. In the night time the alarm was sounded by watchmen who ran along their beats crying fire and springing their rattles.

The officers of the Protecting Society carried whale oil lanterns, properly lettered, in those days, and such lanterns they were—as big almost as a half peck measure. The streets were lighted with whale oil lanterns on posts then. Many a time I have heard the watchman ring the door bell, bang on the front door and cry fire, to wake up my father, Henry C. Kelley, who was a member of the society.

The New Bedford Protecting Society was organized October 26, 1829, and had 50 members upon its roll. Its object was the preservation of property in time of fire by rescuing the merchandise and furniture of any in-

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dividuals, and protecting it from improper usage and conveying it when necessary to a place of safety. Its membership included leading capitalists and merchants of the town. It had no uniforms but each member was equipped with a bag holding about two bushels, neatly folded, so that it when folded was about six inches wide. On the outside fold was painted N. B. P. S., name of member, his number and the date. The bag had a leather strap on both ends having a buckle on one strap and was buckled around the member's waist. There was also a leather strap with sheath attached holding a bed key and screw driver which was buckled around the waist above the bag, and worn during fires. A leather badge with the initials of the society painted thereon was worn on the hat. Several two-bushel baskets were kept for the use of the society.

On arrival at fires the bags were unfolded and used to carry from burning buildings clothing, ornaments, silverware, books and small articles of furniture, etc., etc. The bed keys which were of wrought-iron hand forged and artistically formed, were used to take apart bedsteads, in order to remove them from the buildings on fire. In those days bedsteads were not made as at present to be taken apart easily and without tools. They had head and foot boards of about equal height, with joists of some hard wood about four inches square, having little wooden knobs like the heads of clothes pins, set in the top side of the four pieces of joist, between the four posts of the bed. These joists were fastened to the posts by screws having a square nut-like head. The bedsteads were taken apart, so they could be removed from the house, by removing the screws with the bed key which fitted on to the square head of the screw. The little wooden knobs referred to above received the bed cords, about the size of a clothes line, which were run across the bed from side to side and end to end and drawn tight, and upon which the feather beds rested and which served in place of springs of the present day, then unheard of. The screw drivers were used to take down mirrors, pictures, etc., and take doors from their hinges as there were no shifting hinges then. I am not informed what the two-bushel baskets were for or how they were conveyed to fires. They might possibly have been used in removing dishes and food.

Until the year 1860 there were but few iron safes for the protection of valuables in the town so that many storekeepers and merchants placed their books of accounts on stools or chairs at the front store doors so that in case of fire on the premises the glass in the doors could be broken and the books carried to places of safety by the Protecting Society. The author has seen them many times so placed in piles two feet high.

The following were chosen officers at the meeting held October 26, 1829:

James Hathaway—President.

George Randall—Vice President.

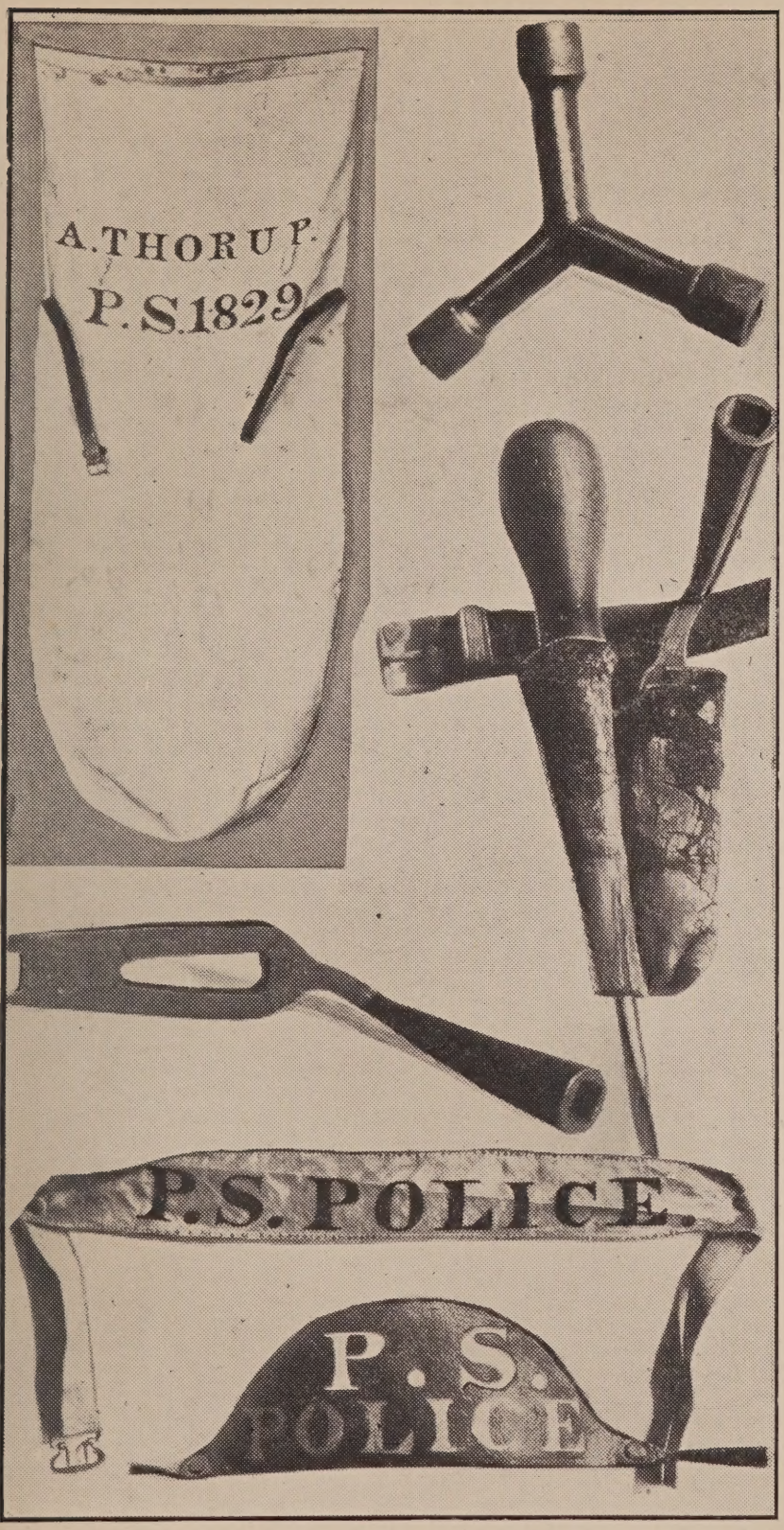
James Cannon—Secretary and Treasurer.

Directors—Zacheus Cushman, Joseph H. Allen, William T. Hawes, Robert Bennett, Alfred Gibbs.

The writer's grandfather was one of the directors and the secretary was his uncle.

The pay of the rank and file was two dollars per year, sufficient to pay the dog license or one's poll tax, and the pay is the same now. Exemption from jury duty was a valuable consideration. From that day to this the members have had no regular place of meeting, no Society home they could call their own. Sometimes they met in the town hall, at other times in insurance offices, drug stores, dry goods stores, residences, the city council chambers, school committee rooms, and the library building.

A verbatim copy of the constitution and by-laws adopted at the first meeting follows:



EQUIPMENT OF THE OLD TIME PROTECTING SOCIETY MEMBER

THE
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
OF THE
PROTECTING SOCIETY,
FOR NEW-BEDFORD.

ORGANIZED OCTOBER 26, 1829.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1st—The object of this Society shall be the preservation of Property in time of Fire, by rescuing the Merchandise and Furniture of any individuals who will receive their services,—protecting it from improper usages and conveying it when expedient to a place of safety.

Article 2d—Any person may become a member of this Society, with the consent of the board of Officers, by signing the Constitution, and paying Fifty cents into the Treasury.

Article 3d—The Officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice President, Clerk, and five Directors, who shall be chosen annually by ballot, on the Third Monday in October.

Article 4th—It shall be the duty of the President, with the advice of the Directors, to take control of all property, which may be under the protection of the Society, directing its removal, when thought expedient, and placing it under the protection of such members as he may think fit.

Article 5th—In the absence of the first officer, the Vice President shall be recognized as President, during such absence, and in case of absence of both President and Vice President, the duties of those officers shall devolve upon the senior Director.

Article 6th.—The Clerk shall perform the duties severally implied in that office, shall also act as Treasurer in collecting and paying all monies under the direction of the Society, and he shall report at every annual meeting of the state of the Treasury.

Article 7th—It shall be the duty of the Directors to advise with, and assist the President in the discharge of his duties.

Article 8th—Every member shall provide himself with a Bag, Screw Driver, and Bed Key, with which he shall repair to all Fires and be ready to perform such duty as shall be assigned him by the officers.

Article 9th—At the Annual Meeting every Member shall present and exhibit to the inspection of the Officers, the articles which his membership requires, and any member who shall be absent from this Meeting without satisfactory excuse, or shall neglect to have supplied himself with the necessary articles or fail to exhibit them, shall forfeit and pay the sum of Fifty cents.

Article 10th—The Clerk shall at the request of the President or any five members call a special meeting of the Society, at some convenient place.

Article 11th—Any alteration may be made to the Constitution at any special meeting called for the purpose, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

Article 12th—Any member who shall neglect to appear at their place of meeting, within fifteen minutes of the time appointed, such member be-

ing duly notified, shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty-five cents, unless he can render a good and sufficient excuse.

Article 13th—The number belonging to this Society shall be limited to Fifty.

Article 14th—There shall be purchased and kept for the use of the Society ten two-bushel baskets, which shall be paid for out of the Treasury.

Article 15th—All special meetings shall be called by written or printed notices, as the clerk may think proper.

Article 16th—In time of Fires, the Officers shall consult with the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department.

Article 17th—The badge by which the members shall be known shall be a leather strap with the initials of the Society upon it.

BY-LAWS.

VOTED, that each Member of the Society meet at the Merchants Insurance office, the Evening of the first day after a fire.

That at all subsequent meetings, any member that shall leave the meeting, after the roll is called, without a satisfactory excuse, shall pay a fine of 12½ cents.

That the members at every meeting appear with all their equipments (except Baskets) and that each member who does not appear with them (without a just and sufficient excuse) be subject to a fine of 25 cents.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE SOCIETY.

On Sunday, July 25, 1830, the residences of William H. Allen and Gideon Allen, Dudley Davenport's carpenter shop and Jethro Coffin's boat-builder's shop were destroyed by fire, as was also Tilson Denham's barn and a quantity of oil belonging to Abraham Barker. The efficacy of the Protecting Society was very strikingly shown on this occasion.

From October, 1830, to October, 1831, George Randall was president, William T. Hawes vice president, James H. Crocker secretary and treasurer, and Zacheus Cushman, Joseph H. Allen, Alfred Gibbs, Robert Bennett and Oliver Swain, directors.

In 1831-2 George Randall was president, Zacheus Cushman vice president and James H. Crocker secretary and treasurer. Alfred Gibbs, Oliver Swain, Robert Bennett, Joseph H. Allen and Pardon Tillinghast, directors.

In 1832-3 George Randall was president, Zacheus Cushman vice president, and John R. Thornton was secretary and treasurer. Alfred Gibbs, Joseph H. Allen, Robert Bennett, William T. Russell and Oliver Swain, directors.

In 1833-4 and 1834-5, George Randall was president, and John R. Thornton secretary and treasurer.

The list of members for that year follow:

George Randall, James Cannon, William T. Hawes, Zacheus Cushman, Joseph H. Allen, Robert Bennett, Alfred Gibbs, Thomas Nickerson, William Howe, Thomas Cook, Henry P. Willis, Francis Taber, Jr., William T. Cook, Benjamin Thompson, Jr., William A. Wall, B. D. Almy, Timothy Ingraham, Robert Gibbs, Asa Wood, Lemuel Kollock, David Sylvester, Mark B. Palmer, Benjamin Russell, Dennis Wood, Samuel Little, Simeon Bailey, Jacob Parker, Caleb S. Tobey, George Russell, William Knights, Stephen Potter, 2d., Jonathan Fuller, Oliver Swain, William Swift, Wing Russell, Henry Cannon, James H. Collins, William R. Taber, James H. Crocker, William Little, Pardon Tillinghast, George F. Murray, George G. Randall, Joshua E. Gage, Samuel W. Hawes, Joseph Taber, Alexander H. Campbell, James Henry Howland, John R. Thornton.

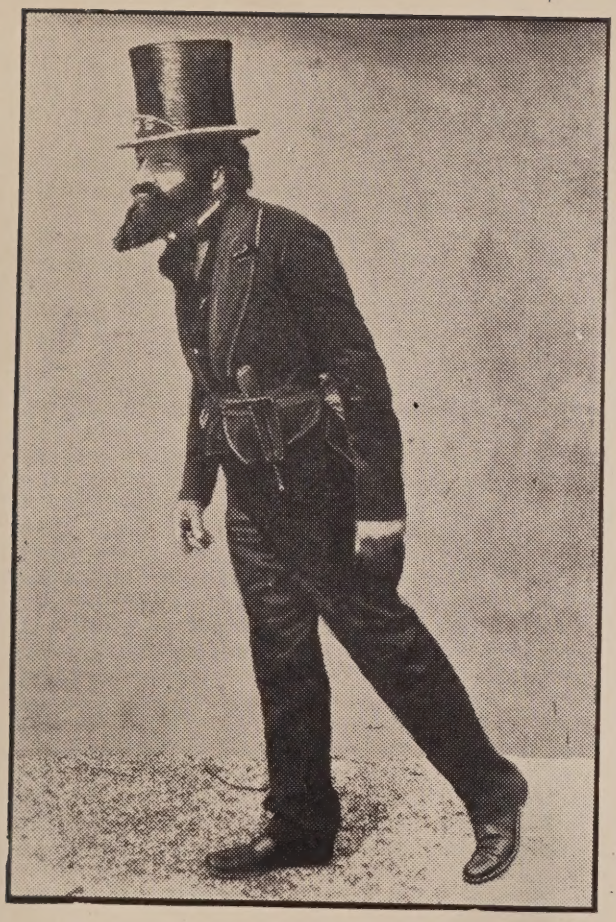
Tuesday, November 9, 1834, there was a destructive fire in the early morning on Water street, and before it was extinguished ten buildings were consumed. The Protecting Society was kept busy and saved much property.

In 1835-6 the same officers served.

In 1836-7 George Randall was president, and James H. Howland secretary and treasurer.

In 1837-8 George Randall was president, and William P. Field secretary and treasurer.

About this time there was such



MEMBER OF PROTECTING SOCIETY ON WAY TO A FIRE
IN THE EARLY DAYS

a lack of interest in the engine companies that the ranks were not half full and the board of engineers passed a vote to accept the services of citizens who might volunteer. The Protecting Society could be counted on as usual.

In 1838-9 Alfred Gibbs was president, and William P. Field secretary and treasurer.

In 1839-40 Lemuel Kollock was elected president, with George A. Bourne secretary and treasurer, and these same officers served for three years.

July 31, 1842, a hot fire occurred in which the stable of Alanson Gammons with contents were consumed. That year was a busy one, many incendiary fires occurring which kept the Protecting Society unusually busy.

In 1842-3 William Knights was president, Joseph Taber vice president, and Reuben Nye secretary and treasurer, and the same officers served during the succeeding year.

March 19, 1844, a fire occurred in the house of John C. Haskell on the northeast corner of County and Bush streets, with the Protecting Society promptly on hand working efficiently.

The members in 1844-5 were as follows:

William Hathaway, Jr., president.

Joshua Richmond, vice president.

Directors, George O. Crocker, Dennis Wood, John A. Standish, Asa R. Nye, Wm. P. S. Cadwell.

George A. Bourne, James Henry Howland, Henry P. Willis, William T. Cook, William A. Wall, James H. Collins, Pardon Tillinghast, William P. Field, Loum Snow, Charles D. Swift, Samuel G. Hudson, Asa T. Lawton, Jonathan Bourne, Samuel Southgate, Samuel Little, Sylvanus G. Nye, R. A. Palmer, James B. King, Wm. O. H. Gwynetth, Ferdinand Vassault, William L. Gerrish, John Kehew, Edward D. Mandell, Francis L. Parker, William C. Peirce, Francis Taber, Jr., Horatio Gushee, Charles Taber, Charles S. Randall, Edward S. Taber, Augustus I Eaton, Edmund Rodman, Henry C. Kelley, Revillo A. Swain, George H. Dunbar, Joseph I. Hunter, George F. Barker, Charles D. Cushman, Josiah H. Coggeshall, Edward Russell, Charles W. Spooner, Josiah C. Wood.

Reuben Nye, secretary and treasurer.

In 1845-6 the officers named above served.

The first parade of the fire department occurred in September, 1844. The Protecting Society did not parade because it had no uniform.

Joshua Richmond served as president from 1846 to 1850, and Reuben Nye as secretary and treasurer in 1846.

The town became a city April 29, 1847. August 7, 1847, several engine companies disbanded because of dissatisfaction with their pay. The Protecting Society kept right on serving loyally.

Ferdinand Vassault served as secretary and treasurer from 1847 to 1850.

May 18th, 1848, Dudley Davenport's planing mill, lumber yard, grocery, and a dwelling house belonging to William Rotch, and other buildings were burned.

January 28, 1850, the Protecting Society performed good service at a fire in stores in Tallman's block on Union street.

About the year 1850 the single barreled bed key was supplanted by the three barreled kind to fit three sizes of screws, there having been changes about that time making it necessary.

In 1850-51 Henry P. Willis was president, and Charles C. Dunbar secretary and treasurer.

June 30, 1851, Albert Shaw's looking-glass and picture frame manufactory was quickly destroyed by fire.

In 1851-52 Henry P. Willis was president, and William C. Macy secretary and treasurer, and the same served for the succeeding five years.

March 28, 1853, Sanford & Howland's oil and candle works near the corner of Water and Middle streets, and William Wilcox's planing mill and lumber yards were destroyed by fire. Loss $50,000. The Protecting Society was out in large force and did good service. September 9, 1853, seven buildings on Purchase near Pearl

street, were destroyed by fire, making much work for the society.

October 18, 1854, at 11 o'clock at night, a destructive conflagration started in the lumber yard of Horatio A. Kempton and before subdued the entire block, bounded by North, Hillman, Foster and Pleasant streets, containing the lumber yard was burned out, together with three dwelling houses on the opposite sides of the streets named. All night the Protecting Society worked removing furniture, etc., from the dwellings on fire and threatened, and goods from Purchase street stores, where it seemed certain the flames would extend. It is said they were a sorry looking lot, begrimmed with smoke, and pretty thoroughly wet.

November 9, the same year, there was another hard fire for the society, Liberty hall, a large wooden building, covering almost two-thirds of the lot upon which now stands the Merchants bank building. It was entirely destroyed. The first floor was occupied by a carpet store, shoe store, city liquor store, tailor shop, and three restaurants. In the second story, besides the hall, was a daguerrian room, engine 6 club room and the telegraph office. The writer was present, though only 8 years old, and stood on the corner now occupied by the street railway station, then occupied as a jewelry store. I saw the fire break out through the roof, saw the bell tower burn and fall in and the entire building burn to the ground. It was a sight to me as I watched the firemen at the brakes and pipe, heard the hoarse orders given by the fire wards and captains, the roaring of the flames and crashing of the falling timbers, the Protecting Society members rushing into the burning building, to come out with bags filled with goods which they carried to the neighboring stores and halls. I do not remember thinking I would be some day doing the same kind of work as a member of the same society. Curfew bell was located in the tower of the building and it rang that night for the fire until the bell rope was burned off. It rang its own death knell for it fell with the tower and the next day it was found melted in the cellar.

In 1855 a cloth badge about two inches wide with "P. S. Police" printed thereon took the place of the leather badge for the hat.

March 9th, 1885, Taber and Grinnell's rivet factory on Rivet street, near Water, was burned. Here was hard work for the Protecting society, many of whom were not built for it, but they went manfully to work rolling out the kegs of rivets, weighing from 100 to 150 pounds, and carrying out of doors heavy coils of wire and bars of iron. They succeeded very well considering everything, though some of the members were not equal to the task. One member was so unwise as to shovel loose rivets into his bag to the extent of half filling it. He then attempted to remove it from the building, but found he could not lift it from the floor, to say nothing of carrying it out. It was as if riveted to the floor. He was helpless, as he could not take part of the rivets out without taking them by the handful, not being able to lift the end of the bag and turn them out. Neither were his hands made to bail them out, so he stood with his gaze riveted on the bag with the fire fast approaching him until "Daddy Bolles," an outsider, came to his relief, shouldered the bag and took it from the building. The interior of the factory was gutted.

During the presidency of Henry P. Willis, the membership of the Protecting Society was increased to seventy-five, and in 1856 consisted of the following:

President—Henry P. Willis.

Vice President—Charles Chandler.

Secretary—Wiliam C. Macy.

Directors—E. D. Mandell, Henry C. Kelley, J. F. Dearborn, William Tallman, Jr., Edward Russell.

George F. Barker, Abraham Russell, W. P. S. Cadwell, Edmund Rodman, Edward Knights, George F. Kingman,

Charles Almy, Henry Childs, James P. Macomber, Nathan Lewis, Lemuel M. Kollock, Charles D. Stickney, L. P. Ashmead, Joshua C. Hitch, Gideon D. Gifford, Charles W. Seabury, Cornelius Davenport, Joseph Buckminster, William G. Baker, Job A. T. Eddy, Charles Taber, George Knights, James Durfee, Jr., Joseph Plummer, Alfred Wilson, Thomas Russell, George W. Choate, George L. Brownell, Stephen P. Haskins, William K. Tallman, George W. Howland, Taber Bowles, Ebenezer Hervey, Sanford S. Horton, Abraham Taber, Nathaniel S. Cannon, Francis L. Porter, Edwin Munson, Gilbert Allen, John P. Knowles, 2nd., Joseph Knowles, William Leverett, William Howe, Benjamin F. T. Jenney, Albert B. Corey, John W. Macomber, R. W. Raymond, Dennis Wood, William G. Wood, M. A. Covell, N. Lincoln, Jr., James J. Barrell, Charles H. Nye, Charles B. H. Fessenden, William H. Bartlett, Alden Wordell, Charles E. Hawes, Ivory S. Cornish, Zoeth S. Durfee, William F. Durfee, Charles H. Gifford, John J. Hicks, J. F. Delaney, Reuben Howland, Edward R. Gardner, Lucius H. Morrill, Sylvander Hutchinson.

Of this list, all have passed to the great beyond excepting four—Alfred Wilson, William H. Bartlett, Charles H. Gifford and John J. Hicks, and these resigned their membership long ago.

On the evening of the 19th of April, 1856, the Howland street riot took place, during which several buildings were burned because of the questionable character of the inmates. The Protecting Society was present and cared for property adjacent to that burning. The mob was a large one which pretty effectually prevented the police and fire department from interfering with their aims. Their work done they turned to and helped save the surrounding property.

The Protecting Society had a supper at the Parker House, January 29, 1855. One who attended says the menu offered every luxury and delicacy the most skillful and accomplished caterer could devise, or the most fastidious epicure could desire. The company numbered about 60. Henry P. Willis, the president of the society, presided, Mayor Rodney French on his left, and Charles Chandler, vice president, on his right. A full two hours was spent in discussion of the good things. The president then addressed the company for a short time, concluding by remarking that he was reminded at this stage of the proceedings of the French spoliation bill, "progressive, but not passed." J. F. Dearborn offered the following sentiment: "The Protecting Society, the mayor's special police, and the body guard of his honor." This called Mayor French to his feet, and in a brief and pertinent speech, he congratulated the society upon the efficiency of their organization, and the promptness which they displayed when the public demanded their services. Other sentiments were offered and speeches made by Edward Munroe, Cyrus Brown, of the Standard, Major George A. Bourne, Dr. W. P. S. Cadwell, surgeon to the society, Francis L. Porter, Andrew G. Pierce, William C. Macy, secretary of the society, Zoeth Durfee, George W. Choate, L. P. Ashmead, Sylvander Hutchinson, William Durfee, Edward Russell, Charles H. Gifford, Charles Chandler, Edward S. Taber, Abraham Taber, Charles W. Seabury, Lemuel M. Kollock and others. A song sung by F. L .Porter, in which the names of nearly the whole company were happily blended, was received with much applause. The Shakespearian reading by an accomplished tragedian (Count Edward Russell) was capital. The company separated after a vote of thanks to the proprietors of the hotel. The occasion, it is said, was one of the most delightful that ever transpired in New Bedford.

During the discussion of the good things, two young merchants, realizing that this was what might be called a dry dinner, thought it should be enlivened with a little more stimulus than the committee had provided; and on their own account quietly notified Mr. Wing, the proprietor, that a cold bottle would be in order if he would kindly furnish it. In due course of time it appeared on the table. The shock was somewhat like a discharge of electricity to the other members,

and some of the older and more cautious, rose in their seats to be sure if they saw aright. The explosion of the cork convinced them. It was astonishing to the two who started it, to see how quickly others fell in line. The result was a most royal time. When the two young merchants above referred to called at the office to settle, they were informed that their account was already balanced, as, had they not initiated the movement, nothing of that nature would have been sold; and another bottle was at their disposal if they so desired.

This supper, instead of being an annual supper, was the first—and final. The expense of something over $5 per plate exhausted the treasury. The bill of fare follows:

SOUP.
Oyster Soup.

FISH.
Baked Codfish, Port Wine Sauce.

BOILED.
Turkey, Oyster Sauce,
Chickens and Pork,
Tongue, Ham.

ENTREES.
Escalloped Oysters,
Macaroni au Parmesan,
Lobster Salad,
Stewed Oysters,
Rice Croquettes,
Chicken Salad.

ROAST.
Leg Venison, Currant Jelly.
Mongrel Goose, Apple Jelly.
Capons, Cranberry Jelly.
Turkeys. Ducks. Chickens.
Ham, Champagne Sauce.

GAME.
Partridges. Black Ducks. Squabs.
Teals. Grouse. Woodcocks. Quails.
Canvas Back Ducks.

PASTRY.
Apple, Mince, Lemon and Squash Pies.
Floating Islands. Wine Jelly.
Blanc Mange.
Calves' Foot Jelly. Porcupines
Charlotte Russe. Italian Cream.

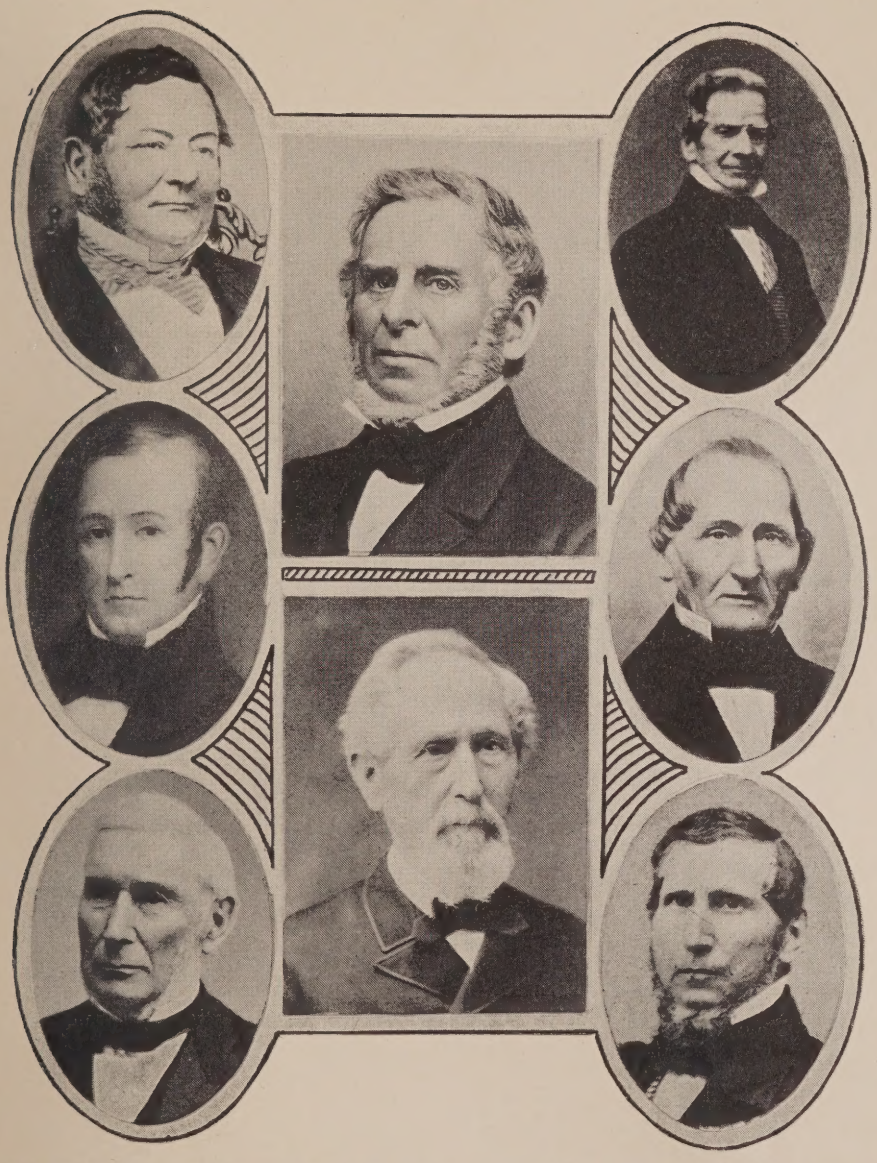
DESSERT.
Apples. Raisins. Oranges. Almonds.
Figs. Shagbarks.
Coffee.

In 1857-8 Charles Chandler served as president, and William C. Macy was secretary and treasurer, and the same served during the succeeding year.

April 18, 1859, fire started in the carriage factory of William A. Nash, in Mechanics lane, near the corner of what is now Pleasant street, but which was not then cut through. The fire spread rapidly, and before it was extinguished, nearly twelve hours later, it had destroyed the carriage factory, three stables, a billiard saloon, and two blacksmiths' shops, and badly damaged Mechanics hall, occupied as City Guards Armory and Union Boot & Shoe store, and slightly damaged the city library building, causing a loss of $27,000. About seventy horses in the stables were saved by cutting the halters and driving them out of the buildings. The Protecting Society rendered valuable service here, and were a tired lot of men.

August 24, 1859, at noon, occurred the greatest fire in the history of New Bedford, involving a loss of about $300,000, with insurance of less than $10,000. More than $200,000 worth of whale oil and bone was burned. It started suddenly in the boiler room of the planing mill of William Wilcox, just north of the site of the planing mill recently occupied by Blossom Brothers, on the east side of Water street, north of Middle street, and was caused by a back draft under the boiler forcing the fire out into the shaving bin. A strong southeast wind was blowing at the time and the fire spread rapidly to the buildings north, crossed the street, and even before the cry of fire was raised, took all of the shops on that side of the street to North street, and worked its way westward to North Second street. All the while the flames were steadily working to the east, along the wharves, consuming all of the buildings and their contents, as well as the casks of whale oil on the wharves and two whaling barks moored there. Cask after cask burst as the fire progressed and the oil ran into the river and took fire. Some of the dwelling houses on Second street were blown up to stay the progress of the flames. On the northwest corner of Water and North streets, where the

PRESIDENTS



GEORGE RANDALL, 2D PREST.
ALFRED GIBBS, 3D
LEMUEL KOLLOCK, 4TH

WILLIAM HATHAWAY, JR., 6TH
JOSHUA RICHMOND, 7TH

WILLIAM KNIGHTS, 5TH
HENRY P. WILLIS, 8TH
CHARLES CHANDLER, 9TH

PRESIDENTS

I have been unable to find a picture of James Hathaway, the first president. He has been described to me by those who remember him as tall and thin, with dark hair and eyes, quite heavy arched eyebrows, retrousse nose, side whiskers, no moustache, quite genial. He was a merchant with a place of business at No. 2 Central Wharf. At one time Lemuel Kollock was in partnership with him. He served as president one year. He died December 29th, 1831, aged 49 years. The time of service of the presidents whose pictures appear on the preceding page follows:

George Randall, Merchant,	7 years
Alfred Gibbs, Commission Merchant,	1 year
Lemuel Kollock, Merchant,	3 years
William Knights, Furniture Dealer,	2 "
William Hathaway, Jr., Merchant,	2 "
Joshua Richmond, Merchant Tailor,	4 "
Henry P. Willis, Harness Maker,	7 "
Charles Chandler, Dry Goods Merchant,	4 "

storehouses of the cotton mill now stand, was stored under seaweed, about 14,000 barrels of oil worth nearly $200,000. The burning cinders fell upon this in great clouds and a part of the Protecting Society with citizens thrashed out with brooms the coals of fire and saved that valuable property. Once in a while they were aided by the firemen turning a stream, wetting the seaweed down, as well as the men at work. The entire force of the Protecting Society was present and at work, some removing furniture and valuables from houses, others removing stocks of goods from stores, and others standing guard over the property removed, or fighting the fire. It was about 6 o'clock in the afternoon before the fire was under control. The Protecting Society was hard pushed that day and rendered valuable service.

The writer well remembers that occasion, as he was just going into dinner, where the family were already seated, when he chanced to look up Third street and saw the billows of smoke arising. I rushed into the house and told my father there was a big fire at the north end. He was just raising his fork full of food to his mouth, but it never reached its destination, for he dropped it into his plate and rushed for his equipment, and was in the street before any cry of fire was heard or a bell rung. I did not wait for dinner but just hustled for the fire, where 1 worked on the lower brake of one of the engines, until that brake, in one of its up motions, caught me under the chin, lifted me off my feet, and—well, I was tired, and so let go, and gave someone else a chance. I then helped move things and later joined the broom brigade and fought the fire on the seaweed over the oil. It was dark when I reached home, tired and hungry. I was almost 13 years old then.

In 1859-60 Charles Chandler was president, Henry C. Kelley, vice president, and William C. Macy was secretary and treasurer, and in 1860-61 the same officers served.

In 1858 the Protecting Society responded to 79 alarms; in 1859, to 72; in 1860, to 87, and in 1861, to 29 alarms, showing they were kept fairly busy.

In February, 1860, the first steam fire engine owned by the city arrived, which was the beginning of the end of the hand engine regime. Fires were were within a year less frequent, and losses were far less.

Soon after the arrival of the new steamer a fierce fire consumed Pollard & Myrick's cooperage at the northwest corner of Middle and North Second streets, and several other buildings; loss about $8,500. The society was kept busy for an hour or two.

January 2, 1861, the buildings of the Petroleum Oil Co., on Fish Island, were destroyed by fire. Two lives were lost and the property loss was about $5,350. The work of the society there was mostly police duty.

In 1861-2 Dennis Wood was president, Henry C. Kelley, vice president, and William C. Macy, secretary and treasurer. The most important fires during their term of office requiring the services of the Protecting Society were January, 1862, destruction of Almy & Swain's hardware store, north side of Union street, on the site of J. & W. R. Wing & Co.'s clothing house, the stores of Joseph Hicks on the west, and Parsons' book store, Peleg Howland's hardware, and Davenport & Mason's on the east, were damaged by fire and water. Loss about $46,000. April 3, Nathan Chase's building, opposite the Stone church, was partially burned, and the occupants, dressmaker, ambrotype saloon, physician, bookstore, confectioner, and an armory, were badly damaged by fire and water. Three days later, Simeon Doane's home on the Point road, was practically destroyed, and the next day the Cordage factory was damaged, about $4,000. October 5th, the same year, William G. White's carriage factory on Purchase street was destroyed, together with James M. Tripp's blacksmith

shop, and other nearby buildings were damaged.

In 1862-3 Edmund Rodman served as president, and Henry C. Kelley as vice president, and William C. Macy as secretary and treasurer. October 24, 1862, at 4 o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the clothing store of John Cunningham, next to the northeast corner of Union and Water streets, and spread rapidly to the corner building occupied by Charles Taber & Co., booksellers, stationers, and photographers. The buildings being old and of wood, made an intensely hot fire, and the upper stories were soon burned out. A number of members of the Protecting Society under the leadership of Vice President Henry C. Kelley, were engaged in removal of goods from the northwest corner room, second floor, Water street side, in the Taber building, when without warning the blazing roof and attic floor fell in with a crash, burying Mr. Kelley beneath the debris, which soon was a seething mass of flames. His face and hands were frightfully burned and he was injured internally from inhaling the flames. Every effort was made to rescue him but the flames were too hot. He managed, after a supreme effort, as he told his family soon after his arrival home, to lift the mass and crawl out of the doorway on the north and down the stairs, where he was quickly seized by his surprised friends and hurried to a physician where his burns were dressed, and then taken to his home where, after two hours he lapsed into unconsciousness, never recovering it, and after fifteen days of intense physical suffering he died on November 9th. He was held in high esteem and respect by all who knew him and his untimely death through being stricken at his post of duty was regretted by the entire community. The Protecting Society furnished a corps of watchers during his entire illness and performed many acts of kindness. Several other members of the society were slightly injured. Mr. Kelley was the first member of the New Bedford fire department to die from injuries received while on duty. Mr. Kelley was a member of Citizen Engine No. 2 Company, from 1834 to 1842, and joined the Protecting Society in 1844.

Up to the year 1864 members took turns watching with their sick.

The foregoing I have written from information derived from research and from memory of what has been told me by my father and other old members in the past, and from personal observation.

The writer having brought the history of the society up to October, 1862, the date of the earliest record book known to exist, will quote from now on in his writings from this book and other sources, giving only such data as will most interest the members of the society and the public.

At a special meeting of the society held November 13, 1862, the following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

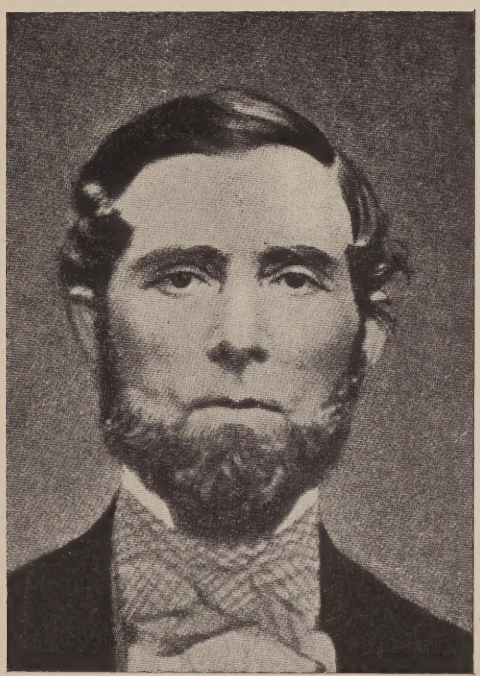
Whereas, In the all wise Providence of God our much esteemed associate, friend and director, Henry C. Kelley, has fallen honorably at his post while in the discharge of his duty as a member of the New Bedford Protecting Society; therefore,

Resolved, That the members of this association, while deploring his loss, will ever hold in grateful remembrance the alacrity, fidelity and courage displayed by him during his nineteen years of active service as a member of this society;

Resolved, That we will ever cherish his memory as one of the brightest examples of conscientious perseverance in the line of duties devolving upon the members of our society, and that it will be to us a fresh inspiration amid the dangers to which we may hereafter be exposed.

Resolved, That we tender the family of the deceased our heartfelt sympathy in the sudden bereavement which has fallen upon them.

Resolved, That these resolutions be



HENRY C. KELLEY

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PROTECTING SOCIETY

DIED NOV. 9TH, 1862, FROM INJURIES RECEIVED
AT C. TABER & CO.'S FIRE, OCT. 24TH

entered upon the records of the society and that a copy be conveyed to the family of the deceased, and that a copy be inserted in each of the daily papers.

To fill the vacancy in the board George R. Phillips was elected.

January 18, 1863.—The society met in the school committee rooms and voted amendments to the By-Laws providing for the delivering to the President of their equipments by members leaving the Society; also providing for the discharge of members who shall be absent from two successive fires or two successive quarterly meetings without sufficient excuse. Thomas S. Russell and John W. Wood resigned. April 2nd, Edmund Munroe and George D. Watkins resigned. Cyrenius W. Haskins was admitted. July 2nd, Chas. E. Maxfield was admitted.

In 1863-4.—Andrew G. Pierce was president. The Directors were Charles Chandler, Edmund Russell, Edmund Rodman, Dennis Wood, George R. Phillips and L. M. Kollock. William C. Macy was Secretary and Treasurer.

At the annual meeting, October 8, 1863, the Secretary was instructed to supply to the extent of the funds in the treasury such deficiencies in equipment as should be reported to him. A committee consisting of Charles H. Gifford, Andrew G. Pierce, Edward H. Allen and Edmund Rodman was appointed to confer with the city council and ascertain their views concerning the society, and on what footing it was in future to be placed. The resignation of Philip E. Colby was accepted and Alfred G. Wilbor was admitted.

Just after midnight, February 10, 1864, fire was discovered in the west end of Liberty Hall, a brick building on the present site of the Merchants National Bank, northwest corner of Purchase and William streets. Quickly spreading, it enveloped the entire interior, destroying the hall and furniture, scenery, etc. The stores in the first story were practically burned out. They were occupied as follows: merchant tailor, carpet dealer, eating house, undertaker, city liquor agency, restaurant, and billiard rooms. The Protecting Society members who rallied in large numbers worked hard for hours removing the stocks from the stores. There was great danger from falling slate from the roof and some of the members were slightly injured by it. The loss was about $33,000.

On February 13, 1864, soon after midnight, William G. Blackler's barn on Anthony street was discovered on fire. The blaze spread rapidly to the adjoining barn of former Governor John H. Clifford, which was very close to his residence which was in great danger of burning. Not until both barns were badly burned was the fire extinguished. At the Governor's residence a fancy dress ball was being given. Among the guests were a large number of the Protecting Society, to whose efforts, with other members who had arrived on the scene and others of the party, was due the preservation of the residence from damage. It was grotesque indeed seeing, as did the writer, the guests spreading wet carpets and blankets on the roof and sides of the residence. Governor Clifford provided, generously, refreshments for the firemen.

At a meeting held March 9, 1864, in Music Hall, Charles H. Gifford, chairman, read the report of the committee to whom was referred the matter of ascertaining from the city government the standing of the society, etc. It follows:

"The Committee who were appointed to confer with the mayor and city solicitor in regard to the position this society might be placed in as a part of the Fire Department, or otherwse, so as to obviate the difficulty that has lately existed as regards obtaining our pay, and other privileges, which we believe are justly due us on account of services rendered the city in times of fire and alarms of fire, have attend-

ed to the duty assigned them and respectfully report.They have had several interviews with His Honor the Mayor, and City Solicitor, and would recommend that the following ordinances be presented to the city council for their acceptance:

ORDINANCE.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of New Bedford as follows:

Section 1st: There shall be organized annually in the month of October as a part of the Fire Department of the City, a Company to be styled the "Protecting Society" constisting of Seventy-five Members whose duty shall consist in the removal of Goods or other Merchandise from any Building on fire or in any danger thereof, and to guard and protect the Same, and also to suppress and prevent tumults, disorders and thefts when so qualified by oath under the Statutes of the Commonwealth.

Section 2d: Said Organization shall have a President, Six Directors, Recording Secretary and Treasurer who shall be chosen annually by the Members and they shall hold their Offices until removed or others are chosen in their stead.

Section 3d: The said Organization shall have the right to make rules and regulations concerning the respective duties of the several Officers and Members and also the conduct and management of their affairs, with power to impose fines and penalties upon their members, which rules and regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Mayor and Aldermen, and it shall also have the power to regulate the Admission of Members.

Section 4th: The Compensation of the Members belonging to this Organization shall be not less than Two Dollars per annum to each Member, to be paid annually in the Month of May to the individual Members thereof, or to such Officers of the Same as the Majority may direct.

Section 5th—The Members of this Organization shall enjoy all the exemptions and privileges accorded to Members of the Fire Department, as provided in the "Act for the better organization of the Fire Department in the City of New Bedford" Approved by the Governor, May 5th, 1852.

The report was accepted and the same committee appointed to present it to the city council for acceptance. Jonathan Handy was admitted to membership.

July 7, at a meeting held in Music Hall, the committee appointed at the last meeting reported through its chairman that the ordinance had been accepted by the city council and passed to be ordained. George F. Parlow was elected a member.

At the annual meeting held October 6, 1864, the treasurer's report was read and accepted and the officers of the previous year were re-elected. The customary annual examination of the equipment took place.

At a special meeting of the Protecting Society held October 25, 1864, it was voted to organize anew under the ordinance passed by the city council, June 30, 1864, under the name of the "Protecting Society"; that all members of the New Bedford Protecting Society be considered members of the "Protecting Society;" that the officers of the old society serve as officers of the new society until others were chosen; that the rules and regulations of the old apply to the new society until others were adopted.

At a meeting held October 31, 1864, the following Rules and Regulations for the "Protecting Society" were adopted:

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Of the Protecting Society.

Article 1st.—The annual meeting of this Society shall be held on the last Monday in October in each year at which meeting the Officers of the Society for the ensuing year shall be chosen by ballot, and each officer shall be balloted separately. The directors to rank in the order of their election.

Article 2d.—The President shall preside at all meetings and command at fires; in his absence, the Directory shall assume his duties, in the order of their rank.

Article 3d.—The Treasurer shall annually collect from the City, the compensation due each member, and shall collect all fines and assessments due each member, and shall make an annual statement of the condition of the Treasury.

Article 4th.—There shall be held Quarterly meetings of the Society on the last Monday of January, April, July and October in each year.

Article 5th—The Secretary, at the request of the President or of any 10

members, shall call a special meeting of the Society.

Article 6th.—The Secretary shall give at least two days' notice of all Meetings of the Society by publishing the same in the daily papers.

Article 7th.—Members not answering to their names at "Roll Call" shall be fined Twenty-Five cents.

Article 8th.—Every member who shall not at the Annual Meeting of the Society exhibit to the inspection of the Officers the Equipments furnished him by the Society, shall pay a fine of Fifty Cents, provided that the Equipments have not been lost while in the discharge of his duty.

Article 9th.—The Society shall have power to assess members to pay expenses.

Article 10th.—The Secretary shall have general charge of all property belonging to the Society.

Article 11th.—A Standing Committee of 3 Members shall be appointed annually by the President whose duty shall be to report on all names proposed for membership.

Article 12th.—A (2-3) Two Thirds vote by ballot, of members present at a regular meeting, shall be necessary to elect a person to membership.

Article 13th.—Upon the admission of any person to membership of this Society, he shall pay the sum of Fifty Cents and sign the Rules and Regulations of the Society.

Article 14th.—any member may, at any regular meeting, make a charge of delinquency against any other member, and the Secretary shall enter same upon the records. At the next regular meeting a hearing shall be had upon the charge, and the Society shall determine by a (2-3) Two Thirds vote of those present, whether or not said charge is sustained. Upon such charge being sustained, the Society may reprimand said delinquent or may by a (2-3) Two Thirds Vote of those present, dismiss the Delinquent Member from the Society. The Secretary shall give at least (30) Thirty days' notice to each member against whom charges may have been preferred, of the meeting at which said hearing shall be had, and such member may at such meeting he heard in relation to such charge.

Article 15th.—Twenty members present shall constitute a quorum.

Article 16th.—Any of the Rules and Regulations herewith may be altered or repealed by a (2-3) Two Thirds Vote of members present, provided that a notice of the Same shall have been given and recorded by the Secretary at a previous regular meeting.

November 25, 1864, the following officers were elected:

President—Andrew G. Pierce.

Directors—Charles Chandler, Edward Russell, Edmund Rodman, Dennis Wood, George R. Phillips, Lemuel M. Kollock.

Secretary and Treasurer—Wm. C. Macy.

A standing committee consisting of David S. Bliss, Humphrey A. Gifford, Jr., and William C. Taber, Jr., was appointed. Chas. S. Cummings and Otis N. Pierce were admitted members.

April 23, 1864, Purrington & Taber's paint shop in Fairhaven and about 20 other wooden buildings were totally or partially destroyed. A detail of the Protecting Society of this city rendered valuable service.

November, 19, 1864, D. A. Snell's Mechanical Bakery, on the northeast corner of Water and Rodman streets, was badly damaged by fire. Seventy-five barrels of bread and considerable flour were destroyed by fire and water.

December 1, 1864, Dr. Thomas Baynes' dental office in the upper part of the building on the southeast corner of Cheapside (now Pleasant street) and William street, were discovered on fire, and before it was extinguished the roof was burned off and his office was gutted. Milliners, dressmakers, a dentist and a photographer who occupied the first and second floors had their stocks more or less damaged by water. The Protecting Society did much and were publicly thanked. The losses for 1864 were not very large, only about $14,000.

At the annual meeting held October 30, 1865, Andrew G. Pierce declined a re-election and the following were elected:

President—Francis L. Porter.

Directors—Charles Chandler, Edward Russell, Edmund Rodman, Dennis Wood, George R. Phillips and David S. Bliss.

Secretary and Treasurer—William C. Macy.

The same standing committee as the previous year was appointed. Lemuel M. Kollock resigned and Francis T. Akin, Samuel C. Hart and

Leonard B. Ellis were admitted to membership. The equipment was examined. All members qualified as special police, an annual proceeding. A vote of thanks to the retiring President was unanimously passed.

The principal fires in 1865 in which the Protecting Society was active were the burning of the New Bedford Oil Company's property at the foot of South street; an oil and candle factory located on Fish Island burned on the 26th of October, when several other buildings were damaged; and December 2, when the Trinitarian church was somewhat burned. The losses for the year were about $13,000.

At the annual meeting held October 14, 1866, the officers of the previous year were re-elected. T. Frank Brownell, Henry J. Taylor and Gideon Allen, Jr., were admitted to membership. A new set of badges was ordered.

At the quarterly meeting held January 28, 1867, Humphrey S. Kirby, Charles H. Lawton and W. H. H. Allen were admitted to membership.

The list of members, January 1867, follows:

President—F. L. Porter.
First Director—Charles Chandler.
Second Director—Edward Russell.
Third Director—Edmund Rodman.
Fourth Director—Dennis Wood.
Fifth Director—George R. Phillips.
Sixth Director—David S. Bliss.
Secretary and Treasurer—William C. Macy.

William H. H. Allen, Gilbert Allen, Gideon Allen, Jr., Edward H. Allen, Charles Almy, Francis T. Aiken, Samuel P. Burt, William H. Bartlett, George L. Brownell, T. Frank Brownell, Joseph Buckminster, William P. S. Cadwell, Charles S. Cummings, Nathaniel S. Cannon, Wendell H. Cobb, Leonard B. Ellis, C. B. H. Fessenden, H. A. Gifford, Jr., F. L. Gilman, Edward R. Gardner, Charles H. Gifford, George D. Gifford, William L. Gerrish, Jr., Ebenezer Hervey, Joshua C. Hitch, Charles B. Hillman, Charles M. Haskell, Jonathan Handy, Sylvander Hutchinson, Ezra Holmes, Cyrenius W. Haskins, William Howe, Samuel C. Hart, Cornelius Howland, Jr., John P Knowles, 2d., Humphrey S. Kirby, Edward Knights, L. M. Kollock, William Leveritt, Charles H. Lawton, Edward D. Mandell, John W. Macomber, Obed C. Nye, Bethuel Penniman, Jr., Andrew G. Pierce, Otis N. Pierce, George F. Parlow, William F. Potter, Abraham Russell, James H. C. Richmond, James Robinson, William R. N. Silvester, William T. Smith, William C. Taber, Jr., Charles Taber, Abraham Taber, Robert B. Taber, Henry J. Taylor, E. P. Taylor, Alden Wordell, William H. Willis, Alfred G. Wilbor, William G. Wood, James De Wolf, Alfred Wilson, George F. Kingman, Joseph Knowles.

Of the above but thirteen are living, and they with the exception of Alfred G. Wilbor have resigned.

A few of the more important fires of 1866 follow:

April 27, stores occupied by Levi Hawes and William Knight, numbered 3 Purchase street, partially burned. The Protecting Society was successful in saving considerable property, notwithstanding much confectionery and furniture were among the contents of the stores.

August 9, Nathaniel Jenney's house and furniture were burned. But little furniture was saved.

September 13, Greene & Wood's planing mill was nearly destroyed. The Protecting Society could do little besides save some of the belting and a few tools and help the firemen. The loss was $4,800.

December 28, occurred the most disastrous fire of the year. caused by the burning of the Joseph G. Grinnell iron foundry on North Front street, north of Rodman street, and the partial burning of the building next north; and others on Hazzard street. The principal sufferers were Joseph G. Grinnell, John A. Gifford, Gifford & Allen, Pardon Potter and Joseph Clarke. There were thirty-one fires during the year with losses of $79,000.

At the quarterly meeting held April 29, 1867, Samuel C. Hart and Abraham Taber resigned and Wendell H. Cobb was elected a member.

July 29, 1867, William O. Woodman was elected a member.

At the annual meeting held October

28, 1867, the officers of the previous year were re-elected.

The most important fires in 1867 were:

May 9th, building belonging to B. H. Waite, northeast corner of Purchase and William streets; occupants, A. A. Swan, James G. Wilson and Jenny & Ward; loss $900. July 27, N. Leonard & Son, unoccupied candle works on Leonard street; loss $4,000. September 3d, New Bedford Oil Co., foot of South street, caused by a lighted match being brought in contact with some non-explosive oil; building, oil, tanks and fixtures destroyed; loss $10,000. September 19, slight burning of building on the northeast corner of Purchase and William streets, and damage of stock of confectionery in store occupied by Anthony Lang, and Jenney and Smith's photograph gallery in the second story; loss $2,000.

There were thirty-one fires during the year, with losses of $26,450.

Edwin P. Taylor resigned April 22, 1868.

At the quarterly meeting held July 27, 1868, in Music Hall, Charles W. Turner, Samuel H. Cook and William A. Robinson, Jr., were elected members.

At the annual meeting held October 26, 1868, in Music Hall, the officers of the previous year were re-elected.

The principal fires in 1868 were:

February 15th, partial burning of dwelling houses 207 and 209 Middle street, and slight burning of church; loss $1,340. April 18, partial burning of oil works, oil, stock and machinery, etc., belonging to Henry Ryder and Watson Ryder, northwest corner of First and Grinnell streets; loss $2,500.

In the evening of June 27, the picture and looking glass frame factory of J. H. Lamb, on the west side of Purchase street near Mill, was entirely destroyed by fire and the neighboring buildings were slightly injured. The Protecting Society was active in caring for the contents of the adjoining buildings. The loss was $4,200.

July 6, partial burning of building, number 57 Charles street, occupied as carpenter shop by William Bosworth and Davis & Hatch Coffee and Spice Mill; loss $1,570.

Just before 10 o'clock in the evening of August 7, the extensive furniture store of Caleb Maxfield, on the south side of Union street between Third and Fourth streets, was partially destroyed by fire. The Protecting Society was kept very busy moving furniture from the rooms burning to other parts of the building; loss $4,500.

September 9, Wales & Co.'s paraffine candle factory on the northwest corner of First and South streets was burned. Some of the stock was saved and property in nearby dwellings was protected by the society.

Early in the morning of October 27, the stave dressing factory of Hayes & Co., on North Water street, was badly damaged by fire and water. The society could do but little besides save some belting and tools and keep the crowd back from the fire. There were twenty alarms during this year and the loss was $19,600.

At the quarterly meeting held in the store of Buckminster & Macy, January 25, 1869, a committee of two, consisting of F. L. Porter and Edmund Rodman was chosen to procure a suitable place for meetings of the society. At the meeting held in the same place, April 26, 1869, the committee asked for further time.

At the annual meeting held October 25, 1869, there was no change made in the list of officers.

No report of the committee appointed to secure a meeting place is recorded but as the meetings have since been held in the common council chambers, it is presumed they secured the chambers as a meeting place.

At a quarterly meeting held January 24, 1870, the following were admitted to membership: Obed N. Swift, Gardner T. Sanford and Charles S. Kelley.

In the year 1869 there were 36 fire alarms and the loss totalled $48,450. This was a busy year for the society. The fires furnishing the most work

for members were: Benj. Ryder's barn and grocery, 47 Kempton street; dwelling at 74 North street; Taber Plane Co., west side of North Water street, opposite Wilcox Planing Mill, and two other buildings; dwelling house of Jabez Gibbs, 83 Pleasant street; Dr. C. L. Spencer's drug store, southeast corner of Purchase and Elm streets; Wales & Co.'s Candle Works, northwest corner of Front and South streets; loss $14,000. This was also burned earlier in the year when the loss was $11,500. Dwelling 270 Middle street; dwelling and dry goods store 309 Purchase street, occupied by A. B. Bessey; machine shop, carpenter shop, plane manufactory, northwest corner of School and First streets. Slight damage to neighboring dwelling houses; loss $5,300.

The quarterly meeting of July 29, 1870, was held on the steps of City Hall. There being no business the meeting soon adjourned.

At the annual meeting held in City Hall, October 31, 1870, the following officers were elected:

President—Francis L. Porter.

Directors—Charles Chandler, Edward Russell, Edward H. Allen, Alden Wordell, George R. Phillips and David S. Bliss.

Secretary and Treasurer—William C. Macy.

In 1870 there were 25 alarms of fire, the losses amounting to $147,500. In only three of the fires did the loss exceed $1,000. May 19, an unoccupied dwelling between Maxfield and Campbell streets on Ray street was destroyed; loss $2,750. The most disastrous fire of the year occurred September 13th, when the New Bedford Flour company plant at the north end of North Water street was, with the exception of the engine and boiler house, completely destroyed with most of its contents, excepting the books and office furniture. This was a hot fire and difficult to handle because it could be approached only on two sides, it being located partly on the river. The loss was $117,000. The Protecting Society worked hard but succeeded in getting out but little of the flour and grain in bags, and office furniture and books, the fire spread so rapidly. Many of the members were well wet and covered with dough in their attempt to appear wel' bred.

Pierce & Hadley's Paraffine Oil and Candle factory at 114 North Water street was destroyed September 21; loss $26,379.

At the annual meeting held October 30, 1871, the officers of the preceding year were re-elected. At this meeting the sum of $50 was donated for the relief of the sufferers by the fires raging in Wisconsin and Michigan, the same to be paid from the treasury of the society. William Leverett resigned his membership.

In September, 1871, the electric fire alarm system was introduced—a most important and effective feature of the fire department. It lessened the work of the Protecting Society because it lessened the number of false alarms which up to that time were frequent. The members of the society were expected to respond to all alarms, whether false or otherwise. An experimental alarm was rung September 25, from box 18, and the fire department responded promptly.

There were but nineteen fires in 1871, the loss amounting to $36,400. The most important was on January 7, the burning of Walter Clark's stable on the east side of North Second street near Spring street. The stable was consumed and several dwellings damaged. The loss was $14,000. The society was kept busy looking after the furniture in five dwelling houses.

Feburary 8th, Nathan Chase's building on the site of the present Charles F. Wing Co. building was burned. It was occupied by millinery store, dry goods store, photograph gallery, and the loss was about $9,000. June 9, T. W. Cook & Co.'s paint mill at the foot of School street was damaged to the amount of $5,000. September 5, there was a partial destruction of the Mansion House and building on the

east; loss $4,300. The society was successful in saving much property.

April 20, 1872, Charles Chandler resigned his membership and a resolution was passed expressive of the appreciation of the members of his faithfulness to duty during the many years he was a member.

July 29, 1872, the following members tendered their resignations: David S. Bliss, Edward H. Allen, Francis T. Akin, Sylvander Hutchinson and Ebenezer Hervey. The society refused to accept the resignations.

At the annual meeting held in the common council room, October 28, 1872, the following officers were chosen:

President—Samuel P. Burt.

Directors—Edward Russell, Alden Wordell, George R. Phillips, Otis N. Pierce, Joshua C. Hitch, Humphrey A. Gifford, Jr.

Secretary and Treasurer—William C. Macy.

A committee consisting of Francis L. Gilman, Charles Almy and William C. Macy, submitted the following resolutions on the death of President Francis L. Porter, who had passed away since the last annual meeting of the society:

Whereas, since the last annual meeting our late president, Francis L. Porter, who has served us as president for seven years, has been removed by death, and desiring to place upon the records of this society our grateful tribute to his memory,

Therefore,

Resolved, that we hereby render cheerful testimony to the ability, fidelity and efficiency with which he always performed the duties of presiding officer, rendering it at all times easy and pleasant to those associated with him in the transaction of business pertaining to the society.

The resolution was accepted and ordered to be placed on the records of the society. Mr. Porter was the only president to die while in office. The resignation of Edmund Rodman was accepted at this meeting.

I have mentioned the most important fires up to and including those of 1872. As since that time they are a matter of record in the public documents I will give the number of fires each year and the losses therefrom, mentioning the large fires from time to time, which will indicate to a small extent the work required of the society.

In 1872 there were 43 alarms of fire, but losses were kept down to $8,600. January 18th Nathan Chase's building, located on the site of the Chas. F. Wing Co. store, was damaged about $1,000, but the stocks of goods in the various parts of the building owned by Mrs. B. Allen & Co., millinery; Charles Jackson, William Howe, book binders; Pardon Devoll & Son and others, were quite badly damaged, though some of the stocks of each was removed by the Protecting Society. The entire loss was about $4,500. April 5th, the wooden building on the southeast corner of Union and First streets, on the site now occupied by Driscol, Church & Hall, was partially burned. Stephen J Jordan and Benjamin C. Ward and two other tenants suffered an aggregate loss of $750. November 5th, a fire in the stores of Edwin Dews, bookseller and stationer, and Amos R. Haswell, tobacconist, damaged them to the extent of $1,150. The losses by the other fires was slight.

On the 10th of November a detachment of the society was sent to Boston to assist in controlling the great conflagration in that city.

At a meeting held April 29, 1873, Richard J. Newton, Joseph Tillinghast, Charles A. Case, Amos W. Hadley and E. Kempton Taber were admitted to membership. On motion of Henry J. Taylor, a committee consisting of S. P. Burt, William C. Macy and Charles S. Kelley, was appointed to confer with Chief Engineer Abraham H. Howland, Jr., in relation to some more efficient system which might be adopted to secure greater usefulness on the part of the society in time of fire and take some action relating to a badge for the members. At about this time metal badges were adopted for the other branches of the department.

October 28, 1873, the following officers were elected:

President—Samuel P. Burt.

Directors—Alden Wordell, George R. Phillips, Otis N. Pierce, Joshua C. Hitch, George D. Gifford and Jonathan Handy.

Secretary and Treasurer—William C. Macy.

Henry C. Denison was admitted to membership. The committee appointed to confer with the chief engineer was granted further time.

February 22, 1873, at 1 30 a. m., a fire started in a cigar store located on the first floor of the old Concert Hall building on the west side of Purchase street, between Union street and Sears court, and before it was extinguished at 9 o'clock, had destroyed that building, the next building south, badly damaged the Macomber building adjoining on the corner of Union, as well as practically destroying two buildings on the north of Concert Hall. A cold snow storm with hard wind prevailed at the time, and but for the heavy snow on the roofs of the buildings in and about the neighborhood, the conflagration without doubt would have been much greater in extent. The losses totalled about $35,000. Some idea of the amount of work performed by the society can be imagined when it is understood that the business of the occupants of those buildings was that of harness maker and trunk dealer, jeweler, tobacconist, furniture dealer, boot and shoe dealer, confectioner, fruit dealer, photographer and druggist. With the exception of the tobacconist and druggist, a portion of the stocks of each store was removed to stores across Purchase street. It was a pretty cold night and many of the society were encased in ice. I remember that my clothing, including my silk hat, was frozen stiff, making it difficult to walk. The water froze about as soon as it struck a person.

January 28, 1874, S. P. Burt, chairman of the committee appointed to confer with the chief engineer, reported that nothing definite had been accomplished and that the committee was still in conference.

L. M. Kollock was elected a member of the society.

A special meeting was held June 30th, 1874. The president stated the object of the meeting was to act upon the invitation of the committee of the city council to participate in the celebration of the Fourth of July by joining in the grand procession in honor of the day and to hear the report of the committee of conference with the engineers of the fire department. Henry J. Taylor moved the society accept the invitation and after some discussion on motion of Gardner T. Sanford an informal ballot was taken which resulted, yeas 6, nays 15. On motion of Mr. Kelley the question was tabled. On motion of Mr. Taylor a committee of three was appointed to confer with the city committee with authority to call another meeting if they deemed best. They did not deem best, for the meeting was not called and the society did not parade.

Mr. Burt, chairman of the committee of conference with the board of engineers of the fire department, made the following report: That the engineers make the following proposition: "That if from the society there shall, every four months, volunteer 25 members to respond promptly to all fire alarms and upon arriving at the fire to do the work assigned them, in an efficient manner, they will provide tarpaulins or rubber covers and ropes to be used at fires and provide conveyance to and from the fires for the same, and they would use their influence to provide us with suitable badges." It was voted to accept the proposition and a committee consisting of the president and directors was appointed to perfect the arrangements and render a list of volunteers at the next meeting. The fines of this meeting were remitted.

At the quarterly meeting held in the city clerk's office July 27, 1874, S. P. Burt, chairman of the committee of conference with the board of fire engineers, reported that the arrange-

ments proposed at the special meeting had been perfected with the engineers and the quarter would commence at once. The report was accepted and the committee discharged.

Notice was given that at the next meeting a proposition to change the By-Laws relating to equipment would be acted upon, also to empower the directors to detail members for duty at fires by lot or otherwise. The following members having volunteered were detailed for duty for the ensuing four months: Henry J. Taylor, Charles S. Kelley, Joseph Tillinghast, Nat. S. Cannon, Joseph Knowles, W. A. Robinson, Jr., Robert B. Taber, Ebenezer Hervey, James Robinson, F. L. Gilman, Charles B. Hillman, Gilbert Allen, J. H. C. Richmond, B. Penniman, Jr., Joshua C. Hitch, George F. Kingman, H. S. Kirby, E. K. Taber, W. T. Smith, Gideon Allen, Jr., Jonathan Handy, Charles H. Gifford, Edward D. Mandell, Charles H. Lawton, S. P. Burt.

At the annual meeting of the society held in the city clerk's office, October 26, 1874, a letter from William C. Macy, secretary and treasurer, was read notifying the society of his removal from the city and that he could no longer be considered a candidate for the office. The report of the treasurer was read showing the amount in his hands to date to be $107.75, which was accepted. A committee was appointed to draft a set of resolutions and forward to Mr. Macy together with a donation of $50 from the society. In those days the secretary and treasurer served without compensation. Mr. Macy served 22 years.

The following officers were elected:

President—Samuel P. Burt.

Directors—Alden Wordell, George R. Phillips, Otis N. Pierce, Joshua C. Hitch, George D. Gifford and Jonathan Handy.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edward H. Allen.

A motion that the equipment in possession of the members be returned to the secretary was discussed and the whole matter laid upon the table. The president and directors were authorized to designate 25 members to serve for special duty at fires for the four months following November 27th next in accordance with the understanding with the board of engineers, viz.: Eight men to have charge of the ropes, eight to remove and protect goods and the balance to take charge of the same. In that year the board of engineers purchased four large rubber blankets for the society, which proved very useful, much property being saved through covering the goods when it was necessary.

At a meeting of the directors held at the office of S. P. Burt, November 12, 1874, the following members were selected to serve on special duty at fires for four months from November 17th:

Alden Wordell,, Chas. B. H. Fessenden, Alfred G. Wilbor, Charles Almy, Chas. S. Cummings, Alfred Wilson, Wm. H. H. Allen, Wm. R. N. Sylvester, Henry C. Denison, Ezra Holmes, Cyrenius W. Haskins, William P. S. Caswell, George D. Gifford, William H. Willis. Edward Knights, L. B. Ellis, L. M. Kollock, William C. Taber, Jr., Humphrey A. Gifford, Jr., Wm. Howe, Obed N. Swift, John P. Knowles, 2d, Amos W. Hadley, Francis T. Akin, George L. Brownell.

In 1874 there were 21 alarms and the losses were $24,350, twenty thousand dollars of which was caused by the burning of Daniel Green's stables in Plainville, within the city limits, together with several valuable horses. December 6 the locomotive house at the north end was damaged to the extent of $3,500.

January 25, 1875, the directors were authorized to make arrangements for procuring metal badges for members if they thought advisable. Members were drafted to serve four months from March 27th. April 26 the resignations of the following members were accepted: Charles Taber, Abraham Russell and Edward Russell. The following were elected members: Edward M. Luce, William B. Anthony and Morgan Rotch.

At a special meeting held May 17, 1875, an invitation to the society to

parade Decoration Day was declined with thanks because of inexpediency.

At a meeting held July 27, 1875, C. B. H. Fessenden resigned and Chas. M. Taber, Gilbert D. Kingman, George A. Gray, George W. Tappan and William A. Russell were elected members, and members for service for four months from July 27 were drafted.

A special meeting was held September 13th, 1875, to take action on the matter of metal badges. The committee reported that the board of engineers had furnished only a part of the badges, and it was voted to return those unless the board furnished the number necessary for all the members. On motion the Rules and Regulations presented by the board were laid on the table. As the writer remembers it the committee of the society and the board of engineers could not agree as to the design on the badges, the board wanting the society to adopt the design they had a small supply of and buy the balance themselves, while the committee had selected another design. The result was the voting later on to instruct the president and directors to procure badges after their own design for all the members and pay for the same out of the treasury of the society.

At the annual meeting, October 23, 1875, the following officers were elected:

President—Samuel P. Burt.

Directors—George R. Phillips, Otis N. Pierce, Joshua C. Hitch, George D. Gifford, Jonathan Handy, L. M. Kollock.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edward H. Allen.

The report of the treasurer showing a balance of $82 on hand was accepted.

At a meeting held October 26, 1875, the following resolutions were ordered:

"Whereas, death has again entered our ranks and taken one of our members it is hereby

"Resolved, that while we bow with resignation to the will of our Heavenly Father who has removed by death one of our late members, Mr. James Robinson, we deeply feel the loss we have sustained. Not only as a member of our society ever ready to do his duty but also as a citizen. Early in life he has been called from earth, but he has left an example of uprightness and earnestness in business worthy of imitation; but while we as members realize the loss we have sustained we deeply sympathize with the family of the deceased and tender a heartfelt sympathy in their distress."

In 1875 there were 28 alarms of fire and the losses totalled $8,380. March 4, James Robinson's house was damaged by fire and water, mostly the latter, loss $3,600. The society was thanked for its good work there. May 4, the stables in the rear of William street, near the present post office, on land through which Acushnet avenue runs, belonging to the estate of John M. Hathaway, were destroyed by fire, most of the contents being saved; loss $1,800. There were no other losses exceeding $1,000 during that year.

At the quarterly meeting held January 31, 1876, the new badges, which cost $37.50, were received and each member was provided with one. Edward M. Luce and William Howe resigned. The old equipment was discarded at about this time.

At a meeting held May 1, 1876, Dennis Wood, William H. Bartlett and William G. Wood resigned.

June 5th, the following were elected members: Charles A. Gray, Stephen W. Booth, E. H. Fisher, Jr., Rodolphus Swift, William F. Read, Thomas G. Wing, R. C. P. Coggeshall, Edward M. Luce, Edmund F. Maxfield, William C. Lawton and Horace Wood.

At the annual meeting held October 30, 1876, the officers of the previous year were re-elected. The treasurer's report, showing $17.88 on hand, was accepted.

In 1876 there were more fires and much greater losses; 33 alarms were rung and the losses, $41,300, were about five times the amount of the previous year. February 1st, J. C. Bradford's Machine shop, corner of Front and School streets, burned, causing a loss of $3,680. February 5th, Mechanics Hall building, owned by George A. Bourne, located on the

site of the present Odd Fellows building, was badly damaged by fire and water. The fire started at about 2 30 p. m. from an overheated furnace. The day was cold and there was much snow on the ground. The occupants were the Union Boot and Shoe store on the first floor and City Guards' Armory on the second. The fire department was promptly on the scene but the fire had attained great headway and was on both floors and in the attic almost immediately. It was evident from the first that the building would have to be deluged with water to save even a part, and because of that fact the furnishings of the armory and the large stock of boots and shoes and leather of the shoe store must be quickly moved. Though the Protecting Society rallied quickly and in good numbers it was evident that by no ordinary means could the work be accomplished, so the writer levied upon all the jobbing wagons on the jobbing wagon stand a few blocks away. Some of the wagons were on runners which was a great help in loading. Part of the society was put on work in the armory where because of the fire, thick smoke and numerous streams of water but little could be saved. In fact, the most valuable part of the Guards' property was directly over the starting point of the fire in the rear and most of the damage there was done before help arrived. The society was lined up in the shoe store and the stock was passed out into the wagons in short order and placed in neighboring stores. Load after load was taken away until the stock which was not burned was removed. So well did the society work that the loss on that $15,000 stock was settled for $624. The building was damaged to the extent of about $3,700 and the Guards' loss $2,300.

A special meeting was held April 27th, 1877, to consult on the amended ordinances of the city reducing the membership to 50 from 75. It was voted that the clerk receive the names of those who wish to resign, that the president, treasurer and directors be a committee to whom the whole matter be referred, to confer with the mayor on appointments. A vote was passed thanking Alderman John Hastings for his interest in the re-enactment of the city ordinances and re-establishment of the society. The following resignations were accepted: Geo. W. Tappan, William P. S. Cadwell, Wendell H. Cobb, Joseph Buckminster, John P. Knowles 2d, C. W. Haskins, S. W. Booth, Ebenezer Hervey and Leonard B. Ellis. The resignation of Edward H. Allen was laid on the table. The closing meeting of the old Protecting Society was held at the office of S. P. Burt in April.

There appeared no real reason why the number of members should be reduced to 50, unless it was politics, as there were none too many members to cover the city; but the chief engineer of the previous year recommended it and an ordinance was passed through the city government in the face of a vigorous protest on the part of members of the society. It is needless to state that the chief failed of re-election the next year.

The society was reorganized under the name of the New Bedford Protecting Society, with but 50 members, in accordance with the provisions of the revised ordinance. The following constituted its membership:

Francis T. Akin, Gilbert Allen, Gideon Allen, Jr., Charles Almy, Samuel P. Burt, Sampel H. Cook, Henry C. Denison, Charles A. Gray, Humphrey A. Gifford, Jr., Jonathan Handy, Amos W. Hadley, Ezra Holmes, Gilbert D. Kingman, Charles H. Lawton, Edmund F. Maxfield, George R. Phillips, Charles M. Taber, Henry J. Taylor, William A. Robinson, Jr., Morgan Rotch, Gardner T. Sanford, Obed N. Swift, R. W. Swift, W. R. N. Sylvester, E. Kempton Taber, William H. H. Allen, Edward H. Allen, William B. Anthony, Charles A. Case, R. C. P. Coggeshall, George R. Gray, Edward R. Gardner, George D. Gifford, Charles M. Haskell, Charles B. Hillman, L. M. Kollock, Charles S. Kelley, Edward M. Luce, George F. Parlow, Otis N. Pierce, William F. Potter, William F. Read, Joseph Tillinghast, Alfred G. Wilbor, William H. Willis, Alfred Wilson, Thomas G. Wing, Horace Wood, William T. Smith, William O. Woodman

New Rules and Regulations were adopted, among the changes being the date of the annual meeting to the last Monday in January.

The following were chosen officers of the society:

President—Samuel P. Burt.

Directors—George R. Phillips, Otis N. Pierce, George D. Gifford, Jonathan Handy, L. M. Kollock, Charles S. Kelley.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edward H. Allen.

Standing Committee—H. A. Gifford, Jr., William T. Smith, Charles B. Hillman.

At a meeting held May 26, 1877, the president appointed directors to have charge of fires as follows: Goods inside buildings, Kollock and Pierce; in charge of removal goods outside, Geo. D. Gifford; in charge of ropes, Kelley and Handy; in charge of adjacent buildings in danger, Geo. R. Phillips.

In 1877 there were 39 fires, with losses of $29,100, the greatest loss being the two fires in Morse's Shoddy mills on Park street.

At the annual meeting held January 28, 1878, in common council chamber, the president being absent, George R. Phillips presided. The report of the treasurer, showing $33.91 on hand, was accepted. S. P. Burt declined re-election and L. M. Kollock was chosen president. George R. Phillips declined re-election. The following directors were then elected: Otis N. Pierce, George D. Gifford, Jonathan Handy, Charles S. Kelley, William A. Robinson, Jr., and Charles H. Lawton. Secretary and treasurer, Edward H. Allen. Eight lanterns were ordered purchased by the society provided the city would not provide them. April 29, William H. H. Allen resigned.

Because of a little misunderstanding between the society and the Hook and Ladder Co., the chief engineer sent a communication to the society July 25, 1878, defining the rights and privileges of the society.

July 29, Charles W. Plummer was elected a member. Henry J. Taylor called attention to the article of by-laws regarding delinquent members, hoping that some action might be taken securing a larger attendance at fires. The matter was referred to the executive committee which warned members that action would be taken in the future against delinquent members.

October 28, resolutions upon the deaths of Obed N. Swift and E. Kempton Taber were unanimously adopted. Andrew G. Pierce was elected a member.

During the year 1878 there were 35 bell alarms of fire and losses aggregating $28,154. Fires causing the greatest loss were William Sanders' clothing house, south side of Union street east of Acushnet avenue, loss about $15,000, February 19; James Doull's carpenter shop, July 7; and stables owned by Henry and Monroe Holcomb.

At the annual meeting held January 28, 1879, Otis N. Pierce declined re-election as director, and the following officers were elected.

President—L. M. Kollock.

Directors—George D. Gifford, Jonathan Handy, Charles S. Kelley, William A. Robinson, Jr., Charles H. Lawton, Andrew G. Pierce.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edward H. Allen.

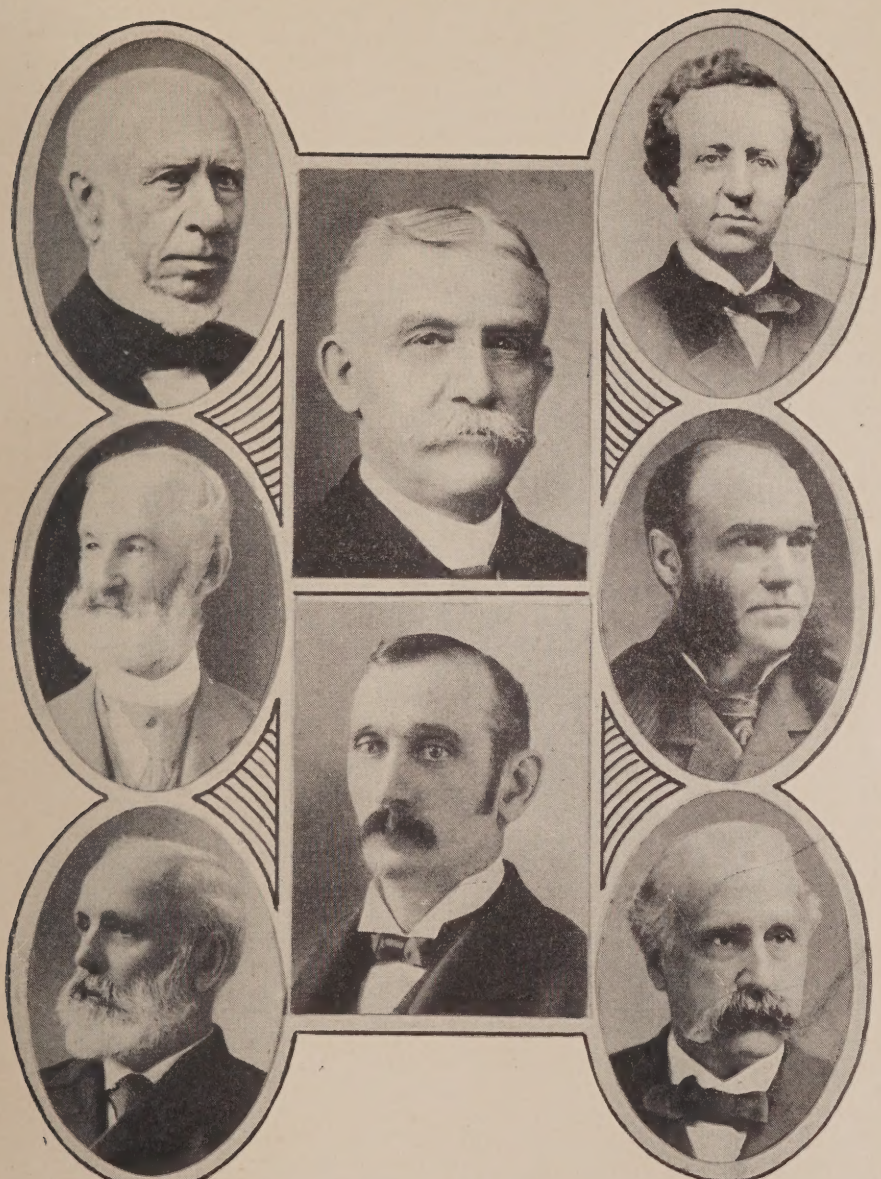
Edward M. Luce resigned as a member.

At a special meeting held June 27, 1879, an invitation was received from the board of fire engineers to take part in the parade July 4. It was declined with thanks. There was no business at any of the quarterly meetings in 1879. The number of alarms in 1879 was 26; total losses $9,163. There was no great loss in any instance but fires in many dwelling houses made work for the society.

At the annual meeting held January 26, 1880, the customary annual qualification of members as special police took place. The report of the treasurer showing $34.34 in hand was accepted. The following officers were chosen.

President—L. M. Kollock.

PRESIDENTS



DENNIS WOOD, 10TH PREST.
EDMUND RODMAN, 11TH
ANDREW G. PIERCE, 12TH

CHARLES S. KELLEY, 16TH
JOHN H. LOWE, 17TH

FRANCIS L. PORTER, 13TH
SAMUEL P. BURT, 14TH
LEMUEL M. KOLLOCK, 15TH

PRESIDENTS

(continued)

The time of service of the presidents on the preceding page follows:

Dennis Wood, Merchant,	1 year
Edmund Rodman, Whale Oil Merchant,	1 year
Andrew G. Pierce, Treasurer of the Wamsutta Mills,	2 years
Francis L. Porter, Attorney at Law,	7 "
Samuel P. Burt, Banker,	6 "
Lemuel M. Kollock, Agent Garfield & Proctor, Coal Dealers,	3 "
Charles S. Kelley, Banker,	26 years 7 months
John H. Lowe, Retired,	elected January 28, 1908

Directors—Jonathan Handy, Charles S. Kelley, William A. Robinson, Jr., Charles H. Lawton, Edward T. Pierce and Charles M. Haskell.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edward H. Allen.

The following resigned as members: Samuel P. Burt and George D. Gifford.

At the quarterly meeting held April 26, 1880, John H. Denison, Thomas H. Knowles and Heman Ellis were elected members. No business was transacted at the next two quarterly meetings.

The fire losses for the year 1880 were smaller than for several years, amounting to but $7,600. The number of bell alarms was 19.

The annual meeting was held January 31, 1881, and after qualifying the special police adjourned to Tuesday evening, February 1, when the treasurer's report, showing $48.36 on hand, was accepted. The president L. M. Kollock declining re-election, Jonathan Handy was elected. He declined, and Charles S. Kelley, who was second director was elected, with the following as directors: Jonathan Handy, William A. Robinson, Jr., Charles H. Lawton, Edward T. Pierce, Charles M. Haskell, Edmund F. Maxfield.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edward H. Allen.

At the three quarterly meetings there was no business to transact. The number of bell alarms in 1881 was 24, and the losses aggregated $26,625. Steamer Albatross loaded with merchandise was burned at the New York propeller wharf, April 16; loss on steamer, $4,825; on cargo, $18,350.

The annual meeting was held in the city clerk's office January 3, 1882. The treasurer's report, showing $48.36, was accepted. The officers of the previous year were re-elected. L. M. Kollock resigned.

At the quarterly meeting, held April 24, Charles M. Hussey was elected to membership. At the quarterly meeting, July 31, there was no business to transact.

At the quarterly meeting held October 30, 1882, the president reported that, feeling the great need of a supply of rubber blankets and knowing there was slight prospect of the city's supplying them, though the authorities had been frequently reminded of the great need of them, he had induced the 80 insurance companies doing business in this city, with one exception, to contribute money for the purpose of supplying its needs in that direction, and the money, amounting to $345.47, had been paid into the treasury of the society. Bills had been contracted against the same with the advice and consent of the executive committee as follows: 25 rubber blankets, $265; nails and boxes to carry same, $7; piano harness not to exceed $30; squilgees, $10; screw drivers and hammers, $2.15; leaving unappropriated $31.32. This sum was later expended in the purchase of four more rubber blankets, four eight-foot ladders for use in covering shelf goods in stores and removing draperies and wall furnishings in dwellings. The very first fire at which the blankets were used was in a building in which there was a market and grocery, a shoe store and a dwelling; by their use goods and furniture were saved the value of which was seven times the cost of the blankets and other articles purchased. It happened that one of the insurance companies which had a risk on the market and grocery had been overlooked, (it had but two risks in the city,) and when the adjusters of that company saw the good work performed by the society they were so well pleased that they recommended a donation by their company, and the treasurer sent a check for $10 —which bought another blanket. Its proportion of the contribution would have been about 39 cents.

The number of bell alarms in 1882 was 28, and the losses amounted to $23,170. The largest loss was $12,800, sustained by the burning June 7th of the Grist mill, five ice houses and dwelling house belonging to Simeon Hawes and located on the Tarkiln Hill road.

August 30, China hall on Purchase

street, the building now occupied by the J. V. Spare Dry Goods Co., was discovered on fire and the then occupants, Henry J. Taylor, crockery, glass and paper hangings, on the first floor, G. A. R. hall on the second floor, and Good Templar lodge on the third floor, were damaged to the extent of about $4,000. Part of the stock of H. J. Taylor was of such a nature that it could not be moved without injuring it more than if left in its place, but a large amount of the perishable portion was removed to an ell of the building and thus saved. The loss in the store was wholly by water and most of the members were drenched while at work. The losses by all of the occupants was $3,950. The need of rubber blankets was made felt here.

At the annual meeting held January 29, 1883, in the city clerk's office, the executive committee's report was read. It referred to the new equipments secured which were carried on the hose wagons and ladder trucks, and lectured the members habitually absent from fires. The treasurer's report, showing $66.22 on hand, was accepted. The old officers were re-elected. Charles Almy, William B. Anthony, Samuel H. Cook, George A. Gray and Alfred Wilson resigned.

At the quarterly meeting held April 30th, Ezra Holmes and Humphrey A. Gifford resigned. The following persons were admitted to membership: Frederick Swift, Edmund Wood, William T. Taylor, Willard Nye, Jr., John H. Lowe and Henry W. Taylor. Fifteen dollars was appropriated to pay expense of wagons to carry members to fires.

November 12, 1883, O. F. Bly was elected a member. Thirty-two bell alarms were given in 1883 and the losses totaled $17,400; of this amount $9,375 was sustained by fire in the cloth room of the Wamsutta mills June 15th. The rubber blankets saved much property in this instance, as they did also in the stone residence of George S. and Frederick A. Homer, on County street, near Arnold, where the loss of furniture was but $400.

At the annual meeting held January 28, 1884, the report of the president and directors was read and accepted. It referred to an unusual amount of sickness among members, to the large amount of property saved at fires, to Charles A. Case as the only member who had responded to every alarm during the year; to the absence of death among the members; recommended the increase of the membership to 75, and the dividing the city into six districts because of the rapid growth of the city; assigning certain members to those districts to answer only calls therein excepting when a general alarm is rung, when all members shall respond. The executive committee was instructed to petition the city government for the passage of an amendment to the ordinances of the city to allow the increase in membership to 75. The treasurer's report, showing $70.86 on hand, was accepted. The following officers were elected:

President—Charles S. Kelley.

Directors—Jonathan Handy, William A. Robinson, Jr., Charles H. Lawton, Edward T. Pierce, Charles M. Haskell and Edmund F. Maxfield.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edward H. Allen.

Charles A. Gray and Thomas G. Wing resigned.

At the quarterly meeting held April 28, 1884, the president reported, that the executive committee as instructed at the annual meeting had presented a petition to the city government for a change in the ordinances of the city providing for the increasing of membership of the society to 75, and that the amendment had passed and was in effect. The rules were suspended and the following persons were admitted to membership: Edgar R. Lewis, William A. Russell, Standish Bourne, Arthur E. Robbins, James N. Parker, William H. Pitman, Frederick A. Washburn, hardware dealer; Charles L. Paine, Henry F. Hammond, Louis H. Richardson, Mark T. Vincent, Philander F. Manchester, Edmond L. Wilde, Edward W. Hart, Edmund Grinnell, George

H. H. Allen, George E. Briggs, Willis W. Fisk, Thomas F. Wood and Frank H. Gifford. The rules and regulations having been amended, wherein was a provision for eight directors instead of six, the following were elected additional directors: Edmund Wood, John H. Lowe.

A letter was received from R. W. Albiston thanking the society for services rendered at the fire in his rooms, February 9. Accompanying the letter was a box of Florida oranges which was very acceptable, and a vote of thanks was passed for the same. A vote was passed asking the committee on fire department for an additional supply of badges for the new members.

At a meeting held August 27, the following persons were admitted to membership: Ernest A. Dunham, Francis C. Terry, Thomas Boardman, Joseph Dawson, Edward S. Shaw, William R. West, Frederic D. Wade. The president called the attention of members to the necessity of wearing their badges in sight at all fires.

At the quarterly meeting held October 27, Edward W. Hart resigned and Robert Snow was elected.

In the year 1884 greater losses by fire and water were sustained than for several years previous. Forty bell alarms were given and the losses totaled about $135,000. February 9th, by the burning of the corner store in the Liberty hall building, Purchase street occupied by O. G. Brownell there was a loss to him, Purrington & Brown, R. W. Albiston, and others in the building of about 7,000.

August 22d, F. A. Sowle's planing mill, located on Elm street, between Second and Water streets, was destroyed, entailing a loss including damage to nearby property of $16,000. December 12, the dry goods stores of Haskell & Tripp, occupying four connecting stores next to the southeast corner of Purchase and William streets, were destroyed, and the adjoining property on the east and south was considerably damaged. It was from the first a difficult fire to handle. It spread rapidly from the basement, where it started, and soon was raging on the street floor. The stores were one story each, basement stores and all were filled with goods such as are found in department stores and were valued at over $100,000. Work as hard as the society did, it was soon apparent that unless wagons were employed in removing the stock, but little could be saved, so they were impressed into the service, loaded with goods and dispatched to City hall where deposited and the return made for more; and these trips were repeated so long as there was anything to save. About one third in value of the stock was saved. The fire spread to the corner store occupied by J. Dexter, jeweler, and much of his stock was saved. Haskell & Tripp's loss was about $73,000; J. Dexter's $1,150; B. H. Waite, dry goods, on the south, lost by smoke and water, $5,500. The building was valued at $9,000. The society was complimented on its work. The chief engineer said in his annual report: "The members of the New Bedford Protecting Society have been very prompt to respond to all alarms, and I cannot speak in too high praise of the faithful manner in which they have performed their duties. There has been more work than for a number of years and they have saved many thousands of dollars worth of property, especially at the residence of E. D. Mandell and at the stores of Haskell & Tripp."

At the annual meeting held in the city clerk's office, January 26, 1885, the treasurer's report, showing balance on hand, $40.11, was accepted. The president read the report of the executive committee which follows:

The executive committee begs leave to present the following report:

Of the seventy-eight years that this society has been organized, no year has been productive of more satisfactory result than that just passed. The amount of property saved from destruction or damage by fire and water may safely be placed at $50,000, and for this service we have been thanked and complimented through the press and in private. At the fire which destroyed Messrs. Haskell & Tripp's

store on the 19th ult., under the supervision of this society property estimated by the insurance adjusters as worth $30,000 was saved. In this instance the addition of twenty-five members to the force during the year proved very advantageous, as it has in other instances.

During the year there have been forty (40) bell alarms of fire which have been responded to by our members promptly, and in sufficient force. During the year the society has been districted, the members being assigned certain numbers of alarm boxes, to calls from which only they are to respond in accordance with instructions given upon a card bearing the numbers designated to each member. This system works satisfactorily to all, relieves members of much unnecessary work, and does not impair the usefulness of the society.

Since the arrangement went into effect, in no instance has any engine been able to get water on a fire before a force of the society were on the premises at work. Six new small rubber blankets have been added to the equipment during the year making the total number thirty-five; the balance remain as last reported, and in good order. The insurance fund is now exhausted, and the companies are not inclined to respond to a call upon them at present for funds to purchase more blankets, though they are aware they are needed for the reason that their losses have been so very low the last year, but they give us encouragement that when conditions change favorably with them, they will respond to our call as generously as before. We are at present endeavoring to arrange for the presence of at least two wagons at all fires, night or day; these we feel confident will be found very useful in moving goods.

We have cause to be thankful that death has not invaded our ranks during the year. There is still complaint from the city police that some of our members are present at fires without having their badges in sight, they claiming it is impossible to effectually guard the ropes so long as this neglect continues, as they are unable to distinguish members from citizens having no business upon the premises. We trust that we shall not again have to refer to the matter, as it must be evident to all that neglect to wear the badge in plain sight impairs the efficiency of the service.

New Bedford, January 26, 1885,

(Signed) Charles S. Kelley, Pres.

The election resulted in the return of the officers of the previous year.

April 27, 1885, Willis W. Fisk resigned his membership and Joseph Dias was elected.

November 11th, the executive committee voted that as the rubber blankets belonging to the society were purchased with money furnished by insurance companies, that they should be used only at fires and for no other purposes.

During the year 1885 there were 30 bell alarms, the losses aggregating only $6,982. No single loss on goods or furniture exceeded $1,000.

January 25, 1886, the annual meeting was held in the assessors' room, Library building. The president's annual report was read. It showed that the equipment was unchanged; recommended that the supply of rubber blankets be increased; that arrangements had been made by which the city met the expense of the wagons hired to carry members of the fire department to fires. There were no deaths in the society. The treasurer's report showing $101.36 on hand was accepted. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President—Charles S. Kelley.

Directors—Jonathan Handy, William A. Robinson, Charles H. Lawton, Edward T. Pierce, Charles M. Haskell, Edmund F. Maxfield, Edmund Wood and John H. Lowe.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edward H. Allen.

The quarterly meetings were held during the year, but there was no business to transact.

There were 27 bell alarms in 1886 and the losses amounted to $26,786. A great many rubber covers were spread during the year and much property saved.

March 25 a fire in the picker room of the Potomska mill caused a loss of $6,445. October 22 Smith Brothers, glass decorators, located in the building on the south side of William street east of second, suffered a loss of $5,110. The society saved a good proportion of the stock on the lower floors.

The annual meeting was held January 31, 1887, in the Library building.

The president's report was read and accepted. It showed the equipment remained the same as the previous year, with the exception of the addition of a stretcher for use in removing sick or injured. The treasurer's report, showing $112.50, was read and accepted. The old board of officers was re-elected.

At the quarterly meeting, held July 25, William O. Woodman resigned. Charles H. Gifford, an employe of the New Bedford Gas company, was elected at the quarterly meeting held October 31. The president announced the death of Heman Ellis, a member of the society.

The losses by fire in 1887 aggregated $45,150. The number of bell alarms was 41, causing more work than usual. A large amount of property was saved. The work of the society was handicapped by the small number of rubber covers. The worst fire of the year was the burning of George Kirby, Jr., & Co's paint mill on Wall street, April 1st. Not only was that building consumed, but three dwellings also met the same fate and five other dwellings were partially burned. The total loss was about $28,000.

A general alarm called the entire force of the Protecting Society, and they responded promptly, and worked with a will effectually, though so many buildings were on fire at once the work was very difficult. At one time the society had members at work in ten different buildings. At the time when the fire assumed its most serious aspect, threatening to destroy the two entire blocks, the president of the society sent a messenger to Charles A. Gray for his large wagons for use in removing goods and furniture in case of emergency, but just before the wagons arrived the fire was considered under control, and after waiting awhile they were sent back. The society used all of its blankets, and could have used more to advantage. Directors Jonathan Handy, Edmund F. Maxfield and John H. Lowe, and members Charles A. Case, Gideon Allen, Jr., Francis T. Akin, Henry F. Hammond and Willard Nye of the society did noble work in removing nine persons, an aged man, five women and three children, from four buildings, who were to all appearances utterly unable to move themselves from the fast approaching flames, some of them being dazed at the situation, thus without doubt saving several lives.

Mr. George Kirby, Jr., assisted several needy ones who were burned out, both in cash, orders for goods and furniture. His great kindness to those who suffered losses by the fire was greatly appreciated, and many were the thanks bestowed upon him. In one instance a young woman whose parents lost everything called upon Mr. Kirby, and, weeping, thanked him, remarking that before he aided them they had not a bed nor any food.

About 500,000 gallons of water were used in extinguishing this fire. The president of the society and Director John H. Lowe started a subscription paper for the aid and benefit of the sufferers by the fire before the ruins were cold, and City Clerk Leonard and various others circulated papers for the same purpose, and altogether there was raised over $600, of which amount more than one half was raised by our society. The Union for Good Works was entrusted with the distribution of furniture and other necessary articles purchased with the money raised.

Nearly the entire force of the society was hard worked that night. Not only were the members busy with their regular work, but they were largely instrumental in saving one of the steam fire engines, which was in a very dangerous position at a hydrant between two buildings burning furiously. It was only by the hardest kind of work that it was saved.

December 19, fire in China Hall building, Purchase street, caused a loss on building of $1,400, on stock and fixtures $5,000.

The annual meeting was held in

room 4, Library building, Jan. 30, 1888. At this meeting Charles W. Plummer and Henry J. Taylor resigned their membership, and their resignations were accepted. Henry Howard, Otis N. Pierce, William H. Knowles and Walter F. Field were elected members. The president's annual report was read and accepted. It contained references to the fact that the press and representatives of insurance companies had spoken in praiseworthy terms during the year of the prompt and efficient service of the society; to the deaths of Heman Ellis and Frederick D. Wade during the year, the first losses by death the society had sustained for many years. Floral badges were provided for the funerals of each. The treasurer's report, showing a balance on hand of $131.34, was accepted. The balloting for officers resulted in no changes in the personnel.

During the year 1888 the society responded to 47 bell alarms. The losses aggregated $32,881.

Jan. 3, a fire in B. H. Waite's building, on the north side of William street, occupied by Stephen D. Pierce, dealer in men's clothing, caused a loss on building of $310, and on stock of goods, $3,500.

April 14, there was a fire in the building on the southwest corner of North Water and North streets, occupied by Bowker & Tripp, machinists, and others. Bowker & Tripp's loss was $3,140.

Aug. 8, a fire in the planing mill owned and occupied by Greene & Wood caused a loss of $15,000.

The annual meeting of the New Bedford Protecting society was held in the Assessors' Room, Library building, January 28, 1889. The president's annual report was read and accepted. It showed that the responses to alarms of fire by members had, as a whole, been below the average for several years. The society, by vote, donated from its treasury the sum of $25 for the relief of suffering caused by a fire at Marblehead, Mass. The treasurer's report for the year showed a balance on hand of $145.21. The equipment remained the same as at the beginning of the year.

The president suggested that more adequate means for conveying blankets to fire be provided. The following were elected officers for the ensuing year:

Directors—Jonathan Handy, William A. Robinson, Charles H. Lawton, Edward T. Pierce, Charles M. Haskell, Edmund F. Maxfield, Edmund Wood and John H. Lowe.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edward H. Allen.

The following standing committee was appointed: William A. Robinson, Edmund F. Maxfield and Gardner T. Sanford.

The resignation of Joseph Dawson was accepted. The meeting then adjourned.

At the quarterly meeting held April 29 Fred C. Dunham was elected a member.

A meeting of the executive committee was held July 12, 1889. Edmond L. Wilde was chosen secretary pro tem. The president stated the meeting was called to take action upon the death of the secretary and treasurer, Edward H. Allen. He offered the following resolutions which were adopted:

Whereas, our much esteemed associate friend and secretary, Edward H. Allen, has been suddenly removed by death from our midst, and,

Whereas, he has faithfully and impartially performed the duties of secretary and treasurer of the New Bedford Protecting society for nearly fifteen years, besides promptly responding to the other duties devolving upon him as a member of our society, for a much longer period, therefore,

Resolved, that the members of this society, while deploring his loss, will always hold in grateful remembrance the interest he always felt in its welfare, and the promptness and amiability with which he transacted all business pertaining to his office;

Resolved, that we will ever cherish his memory as an example of con-

SECRETARY-TREASURERS

JOHN R. THORNTON, 3D SEC-TREAS.
JAMES HENRY HOWLAND, 4TH
GEORGE A. BOURNE, 6TH

REUBEN NYE, 7TH
CHARLES C. DUNBAR, 9TH

WILLIAM C. MACY, 10TH
EDWARD H. ALLEN, 11TH
EDMOND L. WILDE, 12TH

SECRETARY—TREASURERS

As I have been unable to obtain pictures of four of the secretary-treasurers, I will below briefly describe them as represented to me by those who knew them:

James Cannon, the first secretary-treasurer, was a man of medium build, full face, dark hair and eyes, side whiskers, no moustache, hair brushed forward over ears, heavy eyebrows, weight 140 pounds; was a merchant tailor in his early manhood, and later inspector of customs. He served one year.

James H. Crocker, the second secretary-treasurer, was about five feet eight inches in height, thin, brown hair, gray eyes, side whiskers, no moustache, complexion light, weight about 150 pounds. He was at one time cashier of the Bedford Commercial bank, and later was treasurer of the New Bedford & Taunton Railroad. He went to California in 1849, and never returned. He served two years.

John R. Thornton, druggist, served three years.

James Henry Howland, whale oil merchant, served one year.

William P. Field, the fifth secretary-treasurer, was short and slender, had sandy hair, complexion light, gray eyes. He stooped somewhat in walking. He was a clerk in the wholesale dry goods house of William Eddy. He went to California in 1849, where he remained. Served two years.

George A. Bourne, bookseller and stationer, and later an auctioneer, served three years.

Reuben Nye, commission merchant, and later for many years cashier of the Fairhaven National bank, served five years.

Ferdinand Vassault, the eighth secretary-treasurer, was a blonde, medium height, blue eyes, auburn hair, tab-whiskers, weight about 130 pounds; debonaire. He was assistant secretary of the Bedford Commercial Marine Insurance Co. Went to California in 1850, where he remained. Served four years.

Charles C. Dunbar, merchant, served one year.

William C. Macy, of the firm of Buckminster & Macy, dry-goods dealers, served twenty-two years.

Edward H. Allen, of the firm of Gifford & Allen, Brass Founders, served fourteen years and nine months,—died May 10th, 1889, while holding office.

Edmond L. Wilde, of the firm of W. A. Robinson & Co., whale oil refiners, was elected secretary-treasurer July 29th, 1889, and at the time of the publication of this book was efficiently serving the society in that capacity.

Addendum—Dr. Fred C. Graves was elected 8th director January 28, 1908.

scientious perseverance in the line of duty;

Resolved, that we tender to the family of the deceased our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement;

Resolved, that these resolutions be entered upon our records and that a copy be forwarded to the family of the deceased.

At the quarterly meeting held July 29, in the Library building, Edmond L. Wilde was elected secretary and treasurer. The report of the late treasurer, Edward H. Allen, presented by his son, James W. Allen, accompanied by a check for the balance, was accepted.

The quarterly meeting was held in the Library building, October 28. The president referred feelingly to the death of Joseph Tillinghast. The resignation of George F. Parlow was accepted. The following were elected members: Alfred Thornton, Clifton H. Cornish and John E. Gibbs.

Members responded to 34 bell alarms of fire in 1889; the fire loss on contents of buildings burned was $36,634; the insurance on which was $47,150. The principal fires were the Wamsutta Clothing House, 40 Purchase street, February 14, and Grinnell's Iron Foundry, foot of Coffin street, August 26, for which three alarms were rung.

The annual meeting of the society was held January 27, 1890. The president being absent on account of illness, the meeting was presided over by William A. Robinson. The report of the treasurer, showing $138.11 on hand, was accepted. The old board of officers was re-elected. The resignation of William H. Knowles was accepted.

The quarterly meeting was held April 28, with William A. Robinson in the chair. The resignation of Charles B. Hillman was accepted. Francis C. Terry having removed from the city, his membership was declared vacant. Charles H. Holden and William Bamford were elected members. After voting a salary of $50 per annum for the secretary and treasurer the meeting adjourned.

At the quarterly meeting held October 27, the sum of $25 was voted for the relief of Edward C. Spooner, an injured fireman, member of Engine 2.

Members responded to 43 bell alarms; the fire loss on contents was $9,574; the insurance on which was $29,750. The principal fires were: January 3d, fire in building on south side of Union street, east of Fifth street, occupied by H. S. Hutchinson, books and stationery, and by others; loss $3,515, (about two-thirds of Mr. Hutchinson's stock was covered by rubber blankets). March 18, burning of Trinitarian church, a three alarm fire. October 14, fire in house, 107 Cedar street; loss on building and contents slight. At this fire Mrs. Cobb, a tenant, was so badly burned that she died a few hours later and Edward C. Spooner, a member of Engine 2, was so badly burned in removing Mrs. Cobb that he died November 1st. The president of the New Bedford Protecting society assisted by Chief Macy was instrumental in raising by subscription a sum of money sufficient to pay all expenses of his sickness, funeral expenses and the purchase and erection of a gravestone.

The members of the New Bedford Protecting society in 1890 were:

Francis T. Akin,	Henry F. Hammond,
Gilbert Allen,	Henry Howard,
Gideon Allen, Jr.,	Charles S. Kelley,
George H. H. Allen,	Thos. H. Knowles,
William Bamford,	Gilbert D. Kingman,
O. Frank Bly,	Edgar R. Lewis,
Standish Bourne,	Charles H. Lawton,
George E. Briggs,	John H. Lowe,
Thomas Boardman,	Edmund F. Maxfield,
Charles A. Case,	Philander F. Manchester,
R. C. P. Coggeshall,	Willard Nye, Jr.
Clifton H. Cornish,	Edward T. Pierce,
Edwin Dews,	Otis N. Pierce,
Henry C. Denison,	William F. Potter,
Ernest A. Dunham,	Arthur E. Perry,
Joseph Dias,	James N. Parker,
John Eldridge, Jr.,	William H. Pitman,
Walter F. Field,	Charles L. Paine,
Edward R. Gardner,	Stephen D. Peirce,
John E. Gibbs,	George A. Phillips,
Edmund Grinnell,	William F. Read,
Frank H. Gifford,	William A. Robinson,
Charles H. Gifford,	Morgan Rotch,
Amos W. Hadley,	William A. Russell,
Jonathan Handy,	
Charles M. Haskell,	
Charles H. Holden,	
John J. Howland,	
Charles M. Hussey,	

Arthur E. Robbins, William T. Taylor,
Louis H. Richardson, Henry W. Taylor,
Alfred Thornton,
Gardner T. Sanford, Mark T. Vincent.
Frank E. Sawin, Alfred G. Wilbor,
Rodolphus W. Swift Edmond L. Wilde,
Frederick Swift, William H. Willis,
William T. Smith, Horace Wood,
Leander H. Swift, Frederick A. Washburn,
Edward S. Shaw,
Robert Snow, Thomas F. Wood,
William R. West,

At the annual meeting held January 26, 1891, Stephen D. Peirce was elected a member, filling the vacancy caused by the removal from the city of Fred C. Dunham. The executive committee's report referred with pleasure to the improvement in the attendance at fires by members, and to the good condition of the equipment. The treasurer's report showed $91.66 on hand. The officers of the previous year were re-elected and the standing committee of the previous year was reappointed.

At the regular meeting, held April 27, the death of William T. Smith was recorded. George A. Phillips was elected to fill the vacancy. Frederick Swift's resignation was accepted and John Eldridge, Jr., was elected a member.

During the year 1891, members responded to 56 alarms of fire. The loss on contents of buildings was $25,228; the insurance on which was $70,422. The principal fires were: March 19, Moore & Diman's dry goods store, Purchase street, north of William street, east side, which spread to buildings owned by Tilden Bros., Thomas B. Wilcox and Joseph D. Roberts. Two alarms were rung in; loss on buildings and contents $9,432. April 27, fire in cotton in freight shed Old Colony Railroad, Commercial street; loss $12,000; two alarms. May 27, fire in building 532 Acushnet avenue, occupied as laundry and picture frame factory; loss on contents $1,649. October 9, fire in Donaghy's laundry, Acushnet avenue, north of Griffin street; loss on building and contents $4,200; two alarms. November 12, fire in Wright's Drug store, Cummings building, Purchase street; loss on building and contents $2,790.

The annual meeting was held in Room 4, Library building, January 25, 1892, President Kelley in the chair. The executive committee's report was accepted. It showed that with the exception of a few rubber blankets, which were worn out, the equipment was in good order. A protest was entered against the bulk of the spare blankets being kept at the Weld Street station, so far from the centre of the city. Members were scored for not turning out in greater numbers at fires, it being stated that unless a better attendance is reported in the future resignations would be called for. The treasurer's report showed $83.50 on hand. The officers of the previous year were re-elected and the same standing committee was appointed by the president. The resignations of Arthur E. Perry and John H. Denison were accepted. The secretary was instructed to furnish the standing committee with a statement showing the number of members to each ward, and a list of applications to date. The annual qualifying of members as special police officers proceeded after which the meeting adjourned.

At the quarterly meeting, held April 25, Henry H. Stanton and James H. Bamford were elected members.

At the quarterly meeting, held July 25, Arthur E. Robbins was chosen secretary pro tem, the secretary being absent. Three members qualified as special police officers.

At the quarterly meeting, held Oct. 31, the president referred to the death of Edmund Grinnell. Frederick B. Macy was elected to fill the vacancy.

In 1892, members responded to 61 bell alarms of fire; the loss on contents of buildings was $45,103, on which the insurance was $137,510. The principal fires were: January 15, on premises 60, 62, 64, 66 Purchase street, occupied by J. D. Roberts, drugs; Moore & Diman, and others; loss on building and contents $5,700. February 19, Parker house, Purchase street; loss on building and contents $4,000. April 7, W. F. Sturtevant, paint shop; loss on building and con-

tents $2,750. April 11, fire on steamer City of Fitchburg; loss on boat and cargo $20,000. April 29, Parkers block, foot of Middle street; loss on contents, whalebone, etc., $19,340. May 14 dwelling of Wendell H. Cobb, 494 County street; loss on contents $2,500. August 11, dwelling 288 Cedar Grove street; two children were burned to death, loss on building and contents $1,625.

The annual meeting was held January 30, 1893, in Room 4, Library building. The report of the executive committee which was accepted showed that the equipment of the society was in poor condition because of damage from wear, burning and decay from about 10 years' use. Since the first cost of rubber blankets there has been no expense to the insurance companies, though saving them many thousands of dollars. The president stated he was in communication with the insurance companies looking to a further supply of rubber blankets. The treasurer's report showed $63.30 on hand. The election resulted in the officers of the previous year being chosen. The resignations of the following members were received and accepted: William A. Russell, Thomas Boardman and Henry H. Stanton. The members were qualified to serve as special police.

A meeting of the executive committee was held April 11, 1893, at which the president stated that the New England Insurance Exchange could not approve of an expenditure by it for a new supply of rubber blankets. It was voted to authorize the president of the society to purchase 25 new rubber blankets and assess the various insurance companies doing business in this city for the cost of the same provided the insurance companies will approve the expense. It was also voted that members be required to wear their badges in plain sight at all fires. It was further voted that the president and secretary devise some means for keeping a record of the attendance at fires and alarms of fire.

At the quarterly meeting, held April 24, the record of the executive committee was read and the president briefly remarked upon the votes passed by the committee. Lewis E. Bentley and Augustus C. Tripp were elected members of the society. Members present were paid their dues for the year 1892.

The regular quarterly meeting was held July 31. The president read a communication from the Fairhaven Protecting society in which that society tendered their services in times of need; also the president's reply thanking them and returning the favor. The president stated the local Board of Fire Insurance Agents had refused to contribute toward the purchase of new rubber blankets, therefore the society would go without them for the present.

At the quarterly meeting held October 30 there was no business presented.

Members responded to 55 bell alarms of fire in the year 1893; the loss on contents of buildings was $65,097, the insurance on which was $148,901. The principal fires were: February 11, building north side of Rodman street, occupied by D. J. Russell, cabinet-maker; Brightman Bros., paint manufacturers, and others; loss on building and contents $3,700. February 20, dry goods house of Moynan & Co., Eddy building, Union street; loss $14,200. April 26, Pardon Russell's ice houses burned; loss $7,500. May 28, Wm. A. Washburn's planing mill and Ullman Manufacturing Co., North Water street, three alarms rung in; loss on contents $24,192. July 11, William F. Potter & Co., wholesale grocers, Taber's wharf, foot of Union street; loss on contents $13,175.

The annual meeting, held January 29, 1894, in Room 4, Library building, was interesting as it related to the date of the foundation of the society. The report of the executive committee for the year referred to the loss of the records of the society from its formation to 1862, and the dilligent

search for them. Believing it important that the society should have some record of the date of its origin upon the books for the benefit of the present members and those who come after them the president said he had after hours of research located the period beyond question as about November 1, 1829. He imparted interesting facts regarding the early history, which are printed in the early pages of this article. The condition of the equipment of the society was shown in the report. The insurance companies, while admitting the efficiency of the society, and praising its work in saving property for them, declined to bear any proportion of the expense, taking the ground it was just as much the duty of the city to provide blankets as to furnish fire engines. A poor excuse and an unfortunate decision for the stockholders of the insurance companies who are most concerned, as the investment of $400 by the insurance companies, which would call for from $1 to $20 from each company once in 10 years, would save the companies from $15,000 to $25,000 per year.

There were no deaths during the year. The report of the treasurer showed a balance of $45.77. A basket of flowers was furnished for the funeral of William P. Soule, driver of Engine 2, who was killed on the way to a fire. The officers of the previous year were re-elected. The resignation of Henry W. Taylor was received and accepted. A vote of thanks was tendered to William T. Taylor, a member of the city council, for valuable aid in securing the appropriation for the purchase of new blankets.

At the quarterly meeting, held April 30, George W. Bennett and Fred C. Dunham were elected members. At the quarterly meeting, held July 30, Augustus C. Tripp's resignation was accepted. At the quarterly meeting, held October 29, Charles M. Taber, George E. Briggs and James N. Parker resigned and their resignations were accepted. Charges of delinquency were made against twelve members of the society, but because of irregularity of notice it was voted to quash the charges. Article 13 of the rules and regulations was amended, notice of such amendment having been previously given. It provided that charges of delinquency should be acted upon by the executive committee instead of by the society. The following were elected members: Thomas J. Gifford, Henry S. Hutchinson, Frederic Taber and James P. Francis.

In the year 1894 members responded to 69 bell alarms of fire. The losses on contents of buildings were $15,982, the insurance on which was $90,302. The principal fires were: January 10, Button factory, corner of Rivet and First streets; loss on contents $3,000. October 24, Poisson Bros. clothing store; loss $900. November 4, box factory of Ashley & Bennett; loss on building and contents $4,400. November 21, drug store corner of Howland and Water streets, loss on building and contents $2,600.

The report of the executive committee read at the annual meeting, held in Room 4, Library building, January 28, 1895, showed that 27 new rubber blankets had been purchased by the city for the use of the society, making the total number in use 42; that much valuable property had been saved from destruction, and much praise bestowed on the society by the state fire inspector and insurance people for the prompt and efficient service at the fire at which, on the morning of December 18, previous, a three-story building containing two tenements, a grocery and drug store was damaged by fire and water. So well was the society's work done that the loss on the grocery was settled for less than $140, and the loss to the furniture in the tenement was very small. The stock of the drug store was ruined before the alarm rung in. The membership was now 75, with 17 names on the waiting list. The committee called attention to the need of more blankets because of the rapid increase in popu-

lation at the north and south ends of the city. The report of the treasurer showed a balance of $17.28 in the treasury. William A. Mackie kindly presented the society one of the bags used in its earliest history. A copy of the new rules and regulations with a card indicating the numbers of boxes members were expected to respond to in case of fire in 1895, was mailed to each member. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President—Chas. S. Kelley.

Directors—Jonathan Handy, William A. Robinson, Charles H. Lawton, Edward T. Pierce, Chas. M. Haskell, Edmund F. Maxfield, Edmund Wood, John H. Lowe.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edmond L. Wilde.

Other Members.

Francis T. Akin,	Thos. H. Knowles,
Gideon Allen, Jr.,	Gilbert D. Kingman,
Geo. H. H. Allen,	Edgar R. Lewis,
Jas. H. Bamford,	P. F. Manchester,
Wm. Bamford,	Fred'k B. Macy,
Lewis E. Bentley,	Willard Nye, Jr.,
Geo. W. Bennett,	Otis N. Pierce,
O. Frank Bly,	Wm. F. Potter,
Standish Bourne,	James N. Parker,
Byron F. Card,	Wm. H. Pitman,
Charles A. Case,	Chas. L. Paine,
R. C. P. Coggeshall,	Stephen D. Peirce,
Clifton H. Cornish,	Geo. A. Phillips,
Edwin Dews,	William F. Read,
Henry C. Denison,	Morgan Rotch,
Ernest A. Dunham,	Arthur E. Robbins,
Joseph Dias,	L. H. Richardson,
J. Eldridge, Jr.,	Gardner T. Sanford,
Walter F. Field,	Rodolphus W. Swift,
Jas. P. Francis,	Leander H. Swift,
Edward R. Gardner,	S. Edward Shaw,
John E. Gibbs,	Robert Snow,
Frank H. Gifford,	Frederic Taber,
Chas. H. Gifford,	William T. Taylor,
Thos. J. Gifford,	Alfred Thornton,
Amos W. Hadley,	Alfred G. Wilbor,
Chas. H. Holden,	Wm. H. Willis,
John J. Howland,	Wm. Whitehead,
Chas. M. Hussey,	Horace Wood,
H. F. Hammond,	F. A. Washburn,
H. S. Hutchinson,	Thomas F. Wood,
Henry Howard,	William R. West,
Mark T. Vincent.	

April 29, 1895, at a meeting of the executive committee, held in the board of trade rooms at 4 o'clock p. m., recommendations for the quarterly meeting to be held that evening were voted.

The quarterly meeting was held April 29, in the Library building. President Kelley read a copy of a letter which he had sent to the board of engineers urging the purchase of a further supply of rubber blankets for the use of the society. The president feelingly referred to the death of First Director Jonathan Handy, and stated that the society's floral emblem was furnished and a delegation from the society attended the funeral. A letter from Mrs. Handy thanking the society for the floral tribute was read.

The recommendations of the executive committee were read regarding the election of the 8th director and were adopted. Under suspension of the rules John E. Gibbs was elected to that position.

At the quarterly meeting, held July 29, the resignation of Frank E. Sawin was accepted and William Whitehead and Byron F. Card were elected to membership.

The resignation of Walter F. Field was accepted at the quarterly meeting held October 28, 1895, and Edgar B. Hammond was elected to fill the vacancy.

In 1895, members responded to 58 bell alarm of fire. The losses on contents of buildings were $42,387, the insurance on same being $96,458. Fires causing the greatest losses were: February 24, building southwest corner of Front street and Hazzard's lane, containing cotton owned by Rotch Manufacturing Co.; loss on cotton $8,500. April 30, building numbered 151 to 165 Union street, occupied by M. C. Swift & Son, clothing; A. E. Lucas, boots and shoes, and others; loss on contents $26,117. about one-half of the contents were saved. May 11, seven buildings on fire on east side of Purchase street, midway between Middle and High streets, occupied by N. B. Dye House, C. F. Perry market, E. B. Tinkham Shoe Co., and others; two alarms rung; loss on buildings and contents $4,000. The society was complimented for its efficiency by insurance people and others.

On the 27th of January, 1896, the 66th annual meeting of the New Bedford Protecting society was held in Room 4, in the Library building. The resignations of Gilbert Allen, Edwin Dews, Charles M. Hussey and William

H. Willis were accepted, and the following were elected to fill the vacancies: William J. Kerns, Albert F. Wilde, Andrew Snow, Jr., and Edward F. Penney. The report of the executive committee, read by President Kelley, showed the society had been called to respond to fewer alarms of fire than for several years; that the society ranks were full and the waiting list numbers 15. The report of the treasurer showed but $24.91 on hand and that the treasury needed replenishing. It showed 91 rubber blankets on hand, the city having purchased 50 new blankets; 62 blankets in commission and 29 held in reserve. A small book containing rules and regulations as well as the numbers of box alarms each member had allotted to him to respond to in case of fire alarm, were distributed during the last month of the year. The attendance at fires during the first six months of the year was not up to the average, but an improvement took place after the delinquents had been waited upon. After the reports had been accepted the president called attention to the treasurer's report and requested some suggestions as to how the treasury shall be replenished. A motion that the members return to the treasury the various amounts due them for services in 1895 was lost as was also a motion to assess each member 50 cents. It was finally voted that the incoming board of directors be instructed to petition the city government for an appropriation of $50 per year to be paid to the secretary and treasurer for his services. A ballot for officers resulted in the election of the following:

President—Charles S. Kelley.

Directors—1st, William A. Robinson; 2nd, Charles H. Lawton; 3rd, Edward T. Pierce; 4th, Charles M. Haskell; 5th, Edmund F. Maxfield; 6th, Edmund Wood; 7th, John H. Lowe; 8th, John E. Gibbs.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edmond L. Wilde.

The president appointed John L. Gibbs, Standish Bourne and Henry S. Hutchinson as the standing committee.

April 27, the regular quarterly meeting was held in Room 8, Library building, at 7 30 p. m. Two names were presented for membership and referred to the standing committee when the meeting adjourned.

At the quarterly meeting, held July 27, Standish Bourne was elected secretary pro tem. There being no business presented the meeting adjourned.

There being no business presented at the quarterly meeting held October 26, the meeting adjourned.

Members of the society responded to 47 bell alarms of fire in 1896. The damage to contents of buildings amounted to $58,177, the insurance on same was $124,000. The principal fires were: February 10, dwelling of Benjamin H. Waite, northwest corner of Cottage and Arnold streets, fire in attic; loss to building $300, contents only $70. The society was promptly on hand and by the use of tubs to catch the downpouring water, and rubber blankets, kept the loss on contents down to the figure named above. Mr. Waite publicly thanked the society for its efficiency. May 26, threatening fire on south side of Kempton street, east of Cedar, two buildings burned, two alarms; loss on contents $1,950.

Henry S. Hutchinson, a member of the society, with considerable difficulty and personal risk, rescued an elderly lady from one of the burning buildings who had become bewildered in the fire and smoke. She objected to leaving the building, but after several ineffectual attempts Mr. Hutchinson prevailed upon her to accompany him and half carrying and half leading her he brought her out to safety.

August 4, fire destroyed ice houses at Turners pond; loss on buildings and contents $8,000. September 19, Bennett Manufacturing Co. cotton shed; loss on contents $48,000. At about the time the fire was extinguished a hurricane sprang up blowing down a new 2½-story building on Coggeshall

street, which in falling struck the rear part of the wagon containing President Kelley, Director Alfred Thornton and the son of Mr. Kelley, who were returning home from the fire, a narrow escape for them. On stopping the carriage it was learned that a man was buried in the ruins; he was rescued by the occupants of the carriage with the assistance of firemen and conveyed in the wagon to the Weld Street Police station. The man was so badly injured that he died within a few hours. December 14, fire in mills of City Mfg. Co., loss on building and contents $1,200; same day three hours later at same place fire in cotton house caused a loss of $2,400 on building and contents.

The annual meeting was held January 25, 1897, in Room 4, Library building, at 7 30 o'clock p. m., President Kelley in the chair. Fifty-eight members were present. The president read the 67th annual report of the society. The report showed an improvement in attendance of members at fires; that the waiting list contained 16 names; that the equipment included 91 rubber blankets; 25 of which are held in reserve at the Central engine house; that the balance in the treasury was $48.42; that the city government granted the request of the executive committee increasing the amount of the annual appropriation for the society by $50, to be used in paying the salary of the secretary and treasurer, and that there were no deaths in the society during the year.

The result of the election of officers for the ensuing year follows:

President—Charles S. Kelley.

First Director—William A. Robinson.

Second Director—Charles H. Lawton.

Third Director—Edward T. Pierce.

Fourth Director—Charles M. Haskell.

Fifth Director—Edmund F. Maxfield.

Sixth Director—Edmund Wood.

Seventh Director—John H. Lowe.

Eighth Director—John E. Gibbs.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edmond L. Wilde.

The president appointed the following standing committee: Alfred Thornton, William F. Read and Charles L. Paine. The meeting then adjourned.

The quarterly meeting was held in the Library building in the evening of April 26. Henry Howard's resignation was received and accepted and J. Roland Macy was elected to the vacancy. Adjourned.

At the quarterly meeting, held on the evening of July 26th, the secretary being absent, Horace Wood was chosen secretary pro tem. There being no business presented the meeting adjourned.

At the quarterly meeting held in the Library building on the evening of October 25 no business was presented.

In the year 1897, members responded to 63 bell alarms of fire. The losses on contents of buildings aggregated $14,480; on which there was insurance of $61,266. The principal fires were as follows: February 27, a bad boiler explosion occurred at the Acushnet mills in the forenoon by which two lives were lost and a score of people were more or less injured. A half ton fragment of the boiler crashed through the roof of the South Police station injuring no one there. The fire which ensued caused considerable damage to the boiler, pump, and cloth-room buildings of one story each which had previously been demolished by the explosion. The main mills were not damaged excepting by the blowing in of many windows. The total loss was between $50,000 and $60,000, insured. The bodies of the dead were removed by members of the Protecting society under direction of its president, to the weave-room in mill number 2. The society also did police duty. June 27, three alarms for fire in the square bounded by So. Water, Howland, Griffin and Greene & Wood's lumber yard, and filled with a lot of old structures oc-

cupied as barns, storage sheds, and tenement houses. The fire was soon under control and the loss was about $8,000. October 9th, fire on premises occupied by the New Bedford Paper Co., located at the foot Grinnell street on Hastings wharf, two alarms; loss on contents $5,000. November 5th, fire in three-story frame building, northwest corner of Front and Rodman streets; loss on contents $5,000.

The 68th annual meeting of the society was held on the evening of January 31, 1898, in the Library building. The president read the annual report of the executive committee showing that the attendance at fires during the year had not been up to the average, a few doing the work belonging to many; no vacancies in membership; no deaths; in the equipment there were 87 rubber blankets, three having been condemned and one lost; 22 blankets held in reserve. The treasurer's report showed $73.71 in the treasury. The executive committee recommended:

First—A more full and prompt attendance at fires.

Second—That the next three vacancies be filled by the election of physicians, if possible, one to be located in the centre of the city and one at each the north and south ends of the city. It was considered that they would be useful in case of accidents from burning or otherwise, and would have at their disposal the medicine chests on the fire department apparatus.

Third—That members take account of the number of blankets spread at each fire, and report the same to the president, secretary or directors.

Fourth—That each member report his attendance at fires before leaving for home, to the president, a director or the secretary that his name may be recorded as present.

The election of officers resulted in the re-election of those of the previous year. The president appointed Alfred Thornton, Charles L. Paine and William T. Taylor standing committee.

The president called Alfred Thornton to the desk and in behalf of the executive committee presented him a package of fine cigars for having the best record of attendance at fires during 1897. Adjourned.

There was no business offered at the quarterly meeting held the evening of April 25, in the Library building and the meeting adjourned.

The regular quarterly meeting was held the evening of July 31, in the Library building, the president in the chair. The resignation of Andrew Snow, Jr., was accepted. R. W. Swift, having removed from the city was granted an honorable discharge. David L. Parker and George W. Hillman were elected to fill the vacancies. Adjourned.

The quarterly meeting was held 7 30 p. m., October 31, in the Library building, the president in the chair. The resignation of Stephen E. Shaw was accepted. Adjourned.

Members responded to 63 alarms of fire in the year 1898. The losses on contents of buildings damaged by fire and water totalled $24,012; the insurance on which was $62,717. The principal fires were: January 11th, store occupied by E. O. Findelson, at 833 Purchase street, caused a damage of $1,200; March 3d, fire in building 169 North Second street, occupied by the H. A. Blackmer Co., glass cutters, and others, caused a loss on contents of $6,550; April 22, by the burning of the N. B. Garbage plant, a loss of $10,000 was sustained; September 21, fire in the carriage manufactory of George L. Brownell, southeast corner of Cannon street and Acushnet avenue, caused a loss on contents of $5,640; October 13, fire in picker-room at Acushnet mill, loss $1,150; November 11, a midnight fire destroyed a barn rear of Grandfield street near Beetle street and badly injured a tenement house in the rear of Beetle street, adjoining the barn above referred to and owned by Adelard Goodreau. It was peculiarly constructed having a carriage house on the first floor and tenements on the

upper floors. In the upper tenements were a man, three women and a baby. The president and Mr. Alfred Thornton of the Protecting society tried to reach those people by a flight of stairs but were driven back by the smoke and heat when nearly at the door of the occupants' room. Engineer Parlow and permanent man Frank Lewis later succeeded in forcing the door and entered together with the president and Mr. Thornton, and, crawling on their hands and knees, entered the room and found them all apparently dead. By hard work over them a spark of life appeared in all but the baby, which was dead. They were then removed to nearby houses and cared for, and later were removed to the hospital. The house was badly gutted. But for Director John H. Lowe, who first called the attention of one of the engineers to the fact that there were people on that floor, and called the ambulance, none would have escaped alive.

The 69th annual meeting of the society was held in Library building the evening of January 30, 1899, President Kelley in the chair.

The report showed that good work had been done by members during the year, resulting in the saving of much property; that there were three vacancies in membership with 16 names upon the waiting list; that the number of rubber blankets remained at 87, the same as last year; that the balance in the treasury was $87.93; that there were no deaths in the membership during the year; Alfred Thornton attended 28 fires during the year and he was presented a box of cigars. The election of officers resulted in the choice of the officers of the previous year. The president reappointed the standing committee of the previous year. The resignations of Clifton H. Cornish and Charles A. Case were accepted. Mr. Case was one of the most active members of the society and resigned because of ill health. F. E. Thilo and Daniel J. Sullivan, jeweler, were elected members. On motion of H. S. Hutchinson it was voted that the secretary furnish the executive committee with a list of members who have not attended fires during the past twelve months; that some action be taken on the matter and report made at the next meeting. Adjourned.

The quarterly meeting was held April 24, in the Library building, president in the chair. No business was presented and the meeting adjourned.

The regular quarterly meeting was held in the Library building, evening of July 31. Alfred Thornton was elected secretary pro tem. The resignation of George W. Hillman was read and accepted. The following were elected members: Alexander T. Smith, and James L. Humphrey, Jr. Adjourned.

At the quarterly meeting held in the Library building evening of October 30 no business being presented the meeting adjourned.

In the year 1899, members responded to 81 bell alarms of fire. The loss on contents of buildings burned was $17,102; the insurance on which was $79,950. The principal fires were: March 11, the J. C. Rhodes Eyelet factory, located northeast corner of North Front and Rodman streets; loss on contents $8,000, the adjoining building, occupied by S. S. Paine & Bro., was somewhat damaged; July 1, store, 40 Purchase street, occupied by Cherry & Co., ladies garments, loss on contents $2,000; July 19, fire consumed ice houses of Rockdale Ice Co., Rockdale avenue, loss on contents $6,500; November 18, Music hall, William street, first floor occupied by E. E. Chadwick market, loss contents $150; April 7, fire in house 1032 Acushnet avenue, occupied by E. LaMontague and others, loss on contents $1,085; July 16, store corner of Kempton and Emerson streets, occupied by I. Rosenthal, loss on contents $1,075.

At the 70th annual meeting, held January 29, 1900, President Kelley was in the chair. The president read the annual report which showed one vacancy in membership with 11 on

the waiting list. In the equipment of the society were 83 blankets distributed on the various hose wagons and ladder trucks and 19 held in reserve. The treasurer's account showed a balance of cash on hand of $112.12. There were no deaths during the year. Alfred Thornton attended more fires than any other member during the year, 36 in all, Henry S. Hutchinson was second with 32 to his credit and Thomas F. Wood was third with 31. A fireman's lantern, kindly donated by Geo. W. Hillman, was presented Mr. Thornton for the best record of attendance at fires during the year. Francis T. Akin after 35 years of faithful service tendered his resignation and it was accepted, and Thomas B. Akin was elected to membership. The secretary was instructed to convey the thanks of the society to Geo. W. Hillman for the donation of the lantern and to Francis T. Akin for the donation of dues standing to his credit amounting to $2.25. The election of officers for the year 1900 resulted in the choice of those of the previous year. The president appointed Gardner T. Sanford, Louis H. Richardson and William F. Read the standing committee.

At the quarterly meeting held April 30 William Whitehead's resignation was accepted and George I. Macy was elected to fill the vacancy.

In the absence of the secretary, Henry F. Hammond was chosen secretary pro tem of the meeting held July 30. The application of Charles W. Plummer was referred to the standing committee.

No business was presented at the quarterly meeting held October 29.

Members of the society responded to 84 bell alarms of fire in the year 1900. The losses on contents of buildings damaged was $5,028; the insurance on the same was $38,100. The principal fires were: March 30, houses 52, 54 and 56 Cedar street and 328 Middle street. This fire threatened to become a conflagration, but by good work of the fire department a serious loss was prevented. The society was kept very busy and spread all the blankets from the district apparatus keeping the loss on contents down to $203. April 29, fire in Central engine house caused a loss of $1,200. December 7, saloon, 124 Union street, occupied by P. J. Barrett, loss on contents $880.

The 71st annual meeting was held January 28, 1901, with President Kelley in the chair. The report of the executive committee showed there had been no fires of great magnitude though members were called out to fires oftener than ever before. No vacancies existed in the membership. By the fire in the hay loft at the Central engine house during the year the supply of rubber blankets was reduced to 69. The blankets were known as spare, having been used but little and being stored near the hay loft where the fire broke out it was impossible to save them. Steps were taken to replace them. At the end of the year there was $145.14 cash in the treasury. There were no deaths during the year. Thomas F. Wood attended more fires than any other member, Alfred Thornton was second and H. S. Hutchinson third. The president presented Mr. Wood a carving set because of his record. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President—Charles S. Kelley.

First Director—William A. Robinson.

Second Director—Charles H. Lawton.

Third Director—Edward T. Pierce.

Fourth Director—Charles M. Haskell.

Fifth Director—Edmund F. Maxfield.

Sixth Director—Edmund Wood.

Seventh Director—John H. Lowe.

Eighth Director—John E. Gibbs.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edmond L. Wilde.

Other members:

Thomas B. Akin, Lewis E. Bentley,
Gideon Allen, Jr., Geo. W. Bennett,
Geo. H. H. Allen, O. Frank Bly,
Jas. H. Bamford, Standish Bourne,
William Bamford, Byron F. Card,

R. C. P. Coggeshall	Willard Nye Jr.,
Henry C. Denison,	Otis N. Pierce,
Ernest A. Dunham,	William F. Potter,
Fred C. Dunham,	Edward F. Penney,
Joseph Dias,	William H. Pitman,
John Eldridge, Jr.,	Charles L. Paine,
James P. Francis,	David L. Parker,
Edward R. Gardner	Stephen D. Pierce,
John E. Gibbs,	George Phillips,
Frank H. Gifford,	William F. Read,
Chas. H. Gifford,	Morgan Rotch,
Thos. J. Gifford,	Arthur E. Robbins,
Amos W. Hadley,	Louis H. Richard-
Chas. H. Holden,	son,
John J. Howland,	Gardner T. Sanford,
Edgar B. Hammond	Alex. T. Smith,
Henry F. Hammond	Leander H. Swift,
Henry S. Hutchin-	Robert Snow,
son,	Daniel J. Sullivan,
Jas. L. Humphrey,	Frederic Taber,
Jr.,	William T. Taylor,
Thos. H. Knowles,	F. E. Thilo,
Gilbert D. King-	Alfred Thornton,
man,	Alfred G. Wilbor,
Edgar R. Lewis,	Horace Wood,
William J. Lewis,	Frederic A. Wash-
Philander F. Man-	burn,
chester,	Thomas F. Wood,
Frederick B. Macy,	William R. West,
J. Roland Macy,	Mark T. Vincent,
George I. Macy,	

Corrected to December 31, 1900.

The president appointed as the standing committee John E. Gibbs, Louis H. Richardson and Thomas F. Wood.

At the quarterly meeting held April 29, on motion of Alfred Thornton, it was voted that on and after July 1, 1901, the treasurer be authorized to remit by check to each member the amount of his annual dues, it previously having been paid annually in cash to members at the first quarterly meeting.

The resignation of Byron F. Card was accepted at the quarterly meeting held July 29.

At the quarterly meeting held October 28, the president being absent, Director Charles H. Lawton presided, There was no business transacted.

During the year 1901, members responded to 95 bell alarms of fire. The loss on contents of buildings damaged aggregated $11,242; the insurance on which was $34,750. The principal fires were: February 9, building northwest corner of Acushnet avenue and Middle street, occupied by Lot B. Bates, wholesale grocer, and dwelling of Wm. O. Brightman, loss on contents $2,275; much property saved in the grocery. February 10. Stable foot of North street, occupied by R. G. Brightman, loss on contents $1,295. August 26, house Hathaway road near Rockdale avenue loss on contents $806. November 13, Charles S. Knowles Sealing Wax manufactory, County road, loss on contents $1,000.

The annual report of the executive committee read at the 72d annual meeting of the society, held January 27, 1902, showed that the members responded to a greater number of fire alarm than ever before, besides responding to several still alarms; that the equipment consisted of 80 rubber blankets, the city having purchased during the year 12 blankets and put them in commission, and one blanket being condemned during the year; that there was $141.79 in the treasury; that death removed two of the members during the year. Leander H. Swift, one of our oldest and faithful members, died March 8, 1901. Director John E. Gibbs, who died December 21, 1901, was one of the youngest members and an officer who knew well his duties and always faithfully performed them. The society could ill afford to lose him. The society's floral emblem was provided for the funerals. At the suggestion of the president, a period of silence was observed in remembrance of the dead of 1901.

Director Charles H. Lawton offered the following preamble and resolutions which were adopted:

Whereas, In the all wise Providence of God, our much esteemed associate and director, John E. Gibbs, has been removed by death from our presence, therefore,

Resolved, That the members of The New Bedford Protecting society, while deploring his loss, will ever hold in grateful remembrance the alacrity, fidelity and courage always displayed by him in the discharge of the duties devolving upon him as a member of this society,

Resolved, That we tender to the family of the deceased our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement,

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered upon the records of the society and that a copy be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

Officers for the year 1902 were elected as follows:

President—Charles S. Kelley.

First Director—William A. Robinson.

Second Director—Charles H. Lawton.

Third Director—Edward T. Pierce.

Fourth Director—Charles M. Haskell.

Fifth Director—Edmund F. Maxfield.

Sixth Director—Edmund Wood.

Seventh Director—John H. Lowe.

Eighth Director—Alfred Thornton.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edmond L. Wilde.

The president appointed Thomas F. Wood, Louis H. Richardson and William H. Pitman, standing committee. The following were elected to membership: Isaac H. Coe, Jr., Fred V. Hadley and Simpson J. Blossom.

There was no business presented at the quarterly meeting held April 28.

At the quarterly meeting held July 28 the resignation of William F. Read was accepted and Dr. Fred C. Graves elected to fill the vacancy. A charge of delinquency was made against a member which was referred to the standing committee. Charles H. Holden and William J. Lewis, it was stated had removed from the city and the secretary was instructed to communicate with them and request their resignations previous to the next meeting. Adjourned.

At a meeting of the executive committee held at the office of Sanford & Kelley, at 4 p. m., it was voted that it be the sense of the meeting that the president should make a charge of delinquency against any member for non-attendance at fires reported to him by the secretary.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the society, held on the evening of October 27, the following resignations were received and accepted: Wm. F. Potter, Gideon Allen, Jr., and O. Frank Bly. Charles H. Holden having removed from the city his membership was declared vacant. The following were elected members to fill vacancies: Charles S. Kelley, Jr., Joseph Z. Boucher and Samuel H. Perry.

Members responded to 101 bell alarms of fire in the year 1902. The loss on contents in buildings damaged amounted to $33.587; the insurance on which was $93,525. The principal fires were April 3, ice house of Charles H. Mosher, Rockdale avenue, loss on contents $2,880. April 7th, brick building, northeast corner of Purchase and Mill streets, owned by Dr. Helen H. Webster, occupied by various tenants in stores and dwellings, loss by tenants $1,685. November 22d, house, 21 Beech street, owned and occupied by John Cameron, loss on contents $874. November 29th, house 1093 Acushnet avenue, occupied by Frank Corson, loss on contents $750. December 8, paint shop and roll covering factory owned and occupied by William R. West, 830 Purchase street, loss on contents $18,000; the clothing store adjoining on the south, occupied by Poisson Bros. as a clothing store, suffered a loss on contents of $3,350; two alarms were rung in. All of the blankets on apparatus were used, largely reducing the loss.

The annual meeting of the society was held January 27th, 1903. The 73d annual report showed members had responded to a greater number of alarms than ever before. The average attendance at fires was greater that during the two previous years. Good work was done at the fires in the Greene building, Pleasant street, at the residence of James H. Gorham, Morgan street. At the burning of William R. West's roll-covering factory Dec. 8, 1902, members did all that was possible there and in the paint shop connected therewith, and did good work in Poisson's clothing store, which adjoined the building on fire, spreading 25 blankets, thus greatly reducing the loss by fire, water and smoke.

The treasurer's report showed $141.79 on hand. There was one vacancy. There were no deaths during the year. The equipment of the society included 76 rubber blankets. The

resignations of George A. Phillips, Fred C. Dunham and Otis N. Pierce were accepted and Henry Howard, Jr., and F. A. Bonneau were elected to membership. The election of officers resulted in the choice of the officers of the previous year. The president appointed Charles H. Lawton, H. S. Hutchinson and Arthur E. Robbins on the standing committee.

At the quarterly meeting held April 27th applications for membership were received and referred to the standing committee.

At the quarterly meeting held July 27th, Henry P. Burt and James F. Hoye were elected to membership.

The resignation of William J. Lewis was received and accepted at the regular quarterly meeting held October 26, and the vacancy was referred to the standing committee.

In the year 1903 members of the society responded to 97 bell alarms of fire. The losses on contents of buildings amounted to $4,741, the insurance on which was $42,989. The principal fires were: April 7th, oil factory of William A. Robinson & Co., northeast corner of South Water and Walnut streets, loss on contents $949; two alarms rung; July 8, stable south side of High street, west of Purchase street, occupied by the Household Furnishing company, loss on contents $200; December 10, store and dwelling, 271 Coggeshall street, loss on contents $814.

The 74th annual meeting was held January 25th, 1904, in Room 5, Library building, President Kelley in the chair. Everett Greene was elected a member. The report of the executive committee showed the year to have been uneventful and the work of the society lighter than usual; that included in the equipment of the society were 79 rubber blankets. The treasurer's account showed $222.75 on hand. There were no deaths during the year. No vacancies existed and there were 11 names on the waiting list. Alfred Thornton attended a greater number of fires during the year than any other member. Dr. Graves was next and E. F. Penney was third. The committee called the attention of members to the fact that there is on each ladder truck an emergency case, containing medicines, liniments, bandages, surgical instruments, etc., for use in accidents by burning or otherwise. Edmund Wood declined a re-election as sixth director and nominated Edward F. Penney for the vacancy. The election of officers for the year resulted as follows:

President—Charles S. Kelley.

First Director—William A. Robinson.

Second Director—Charles H. Lawton.

Third Director—Edward T. Pierce.

Fourth Director—Charles M. Haskell.

Fifth Director—Edmund F. Maxfield.

Sixth Director—John H. Lowe.

Seventh Director—Alfred Thornton.

Eighth Director—Edward F. Penney.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edmond L. Wilde.

The president appointed as the standing committee Charles H. Lawton, H. S. Hutchinson and Arthur E. Robbins.

It was voted to increase the salary of the secretary and treasurer $25 annually from the funds of the society. Adjourned.

At the quarterly meeting held April 25, the resignation of Fred V. Hadley was accepted and Otis P. Cook was elected to fill the vacancy.

Clement L. Yaeger made application for membership at the quarterly meeting held July 25, and it was referred to the standing committee.

At the quarterly meeting held October 31, President Kelley feelingly referred to the death of Charles H. Lawton, second director, and Edward R Gardner, the oldest member of the society, he having joined the society in 1860. Henry S. Hutchinson was elected eighth director to fill the vacancy. Walter H. Page and Clement L. Yaeger were elected to membership.

The members of the society re-

sponded to 68 bell alarms in the year 1904. The losses on contents of buildings amounted to $18,970, the insurance on same amounting to $101,000. The principal fires: October 17, a two-story frame building in Sears court, used as a storehouse and connected with the Masonic building, a brick structure. The loss on building was about $1,600, on contents belonging to Charles F. Wing and Ruggles & Ellison et al., $7,500; insurance on contents, $40,000. December 5, R. Mechaber & Sons, 812 Purchase street, dry goods; loss on contents $1,787; insurance $7,800. December 7, Samuel T. and Etta T. Lee, 740 Purchase street, variety store; loss on contents $4,338; insurance $6,000. December 26, Hub Clothing company and others, 787 South Water street; loss on contents $750; insurance $3,100.

The 75th annual meeting was held in the Library building at 7 30 p. m., January 30, 1905. The report of the executive committee for the year 1904 was read. It appeared by it that the alarms of fire were the smallest in six years, still the work was more arduous and more property was saved from damage by fire and water. Death removed two members: Director Charles H. Lawton, who died September 11, 1904, after 37 years of active and faithful service, and Edward R. Gardner, who died September 18, 1904, having served faithfully 44 years. Mr. Gardner was one of the oldest members as well as the longest in the service. The regulation floral badge of the society was provided for the funeral of each. The treasurer's statement showed $207.94 cash on hand.

Dr. F. C. Graves attended a greater number of fires than any member during the year. The equipment of the society consisted of 71 rubber blankets. On the ladder trucks are screw drivers, canvas bags, short ladders and squilgees, also one stretcher and one piano harness. A floral emblem was furnished by the society for the funeral of our late lamented Chief Engineer Frederick Macy, who died June 22, 1904, after 27 years 6 months of honorable and efficient service as chief engineer of the New Bedford fire department. He was a good friend of the Protecting society. A detail from the society attended the funeral and the president was one of the bearers.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

President—Charles S. Kelley.

First Director—William A. Robinson.

Second Director—Edward T. Pierce.

Third Director—Charles M. Haskell.

Fourth Director—Edmund F. Maxfield.

Fifth Director—John H. Lowe.

Sixth Director—Alfred Thornton.

Seventh Director—Edward F. Penney.

Eighth Director—Henry S. Hutchinson.

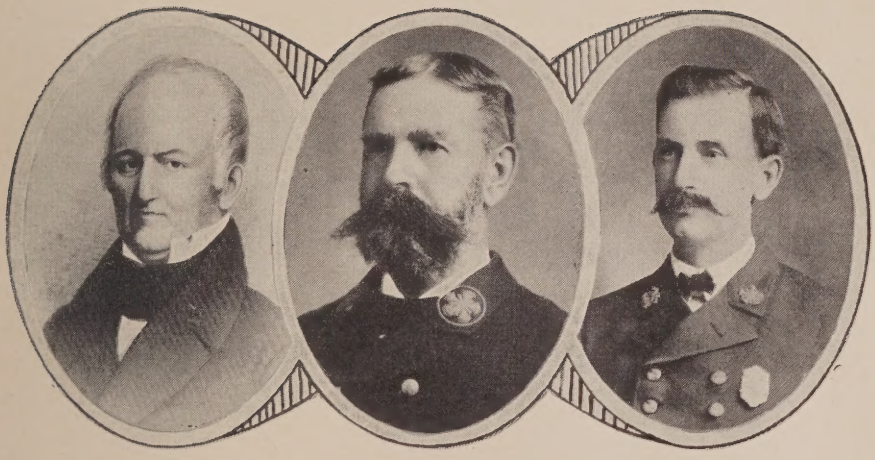
Secretary and Treasurer—Edmond L. Wilde.

The president appointed as standing committee Arthur E. Robbins, Henry S. Hutchinson and Mark T. Vincent.

At the quarterly meeting held April 24th the resignation of Lewis E. Bentley was accepted. President Kelley referred to the death of Stephen D Peirce, and stated that the usual floral tribute was provided for the funeral. Edward A. Peirce and J. A. Ernest Michaud were elected to membership. The matter of securing an additional supply of rubber blankets was left with the president.

At the quarterly meeting held July 31st, the president referred to the death of Third Director Charles M. Haskell and stated that the usual floral emblem was furnished for the funeral. The resignation of William A. Robinson was received and accepted. Alfred G. Wilbor was elected seventh director and Thomas B. Akin eighth director. John K. Blair and William A. Robinson, Jr., were elected to membership.

At the quarterly meeting held October 30th, it was voted to approve



JOHN AVERY PARKER
1st Chief Engineer
ELECTED APRIL, 1834
SERVED 1 YEAR

FREDERICK MACY
16th Chief Engineer
ELECTED JANUARY 2d, 1877
DIED JUNE 22, 1904
SERVED 27 YEARS, 6 MONTHS

EDWARD F. DAHILL
17th and Present
Chief Engineer
ELECTED 1904

CHIEF ENGINEERS

The names of all of the Chief Engineers of the New Bedford Fire Department who have served as such since the fire department was incorporated in 1834 with their time of service follows:

1834 John Avery Parker
1835-1843 Andrew Robeson
1844-1845 William H. Taylor
1846 Abraham H. Howland
1847 George Howland, Jr.
1848-1850 Zachariah Hillman
1851-1852 Ezra K. Delano
1853 George Wilson
1854 Joshua B. Ashley
1855 Zachariah Hillman
1856-1857 Joshua B. Ashley
1858-1870 Tillinghast P. Tompkins
1871-1873 Abraham H. Howland, Jr.
1874 Samuel C. Hart
1875-1876 Moses H. Bliss
1877 to June, 1904, Frederick Macy
1904, July, to 1908 Edward F. Dahill

the action of the president in subscribing to the Firemen's Convention fund the sum of $50, or such part as may be called for by the treasurer of said fund.

The number of bell alarms responded to by members of the society in 1905 was 93, the damage to contents of buildings was $41,143; insurance on same was $96,300. The principal fires: January 29, City Manufacturing company storehouse, loss $20,000. February 12, bakery of A. Kroudivird and others; loss on contents $780, insurance $900. March 7, No. 19 Purchase street, tailor shop, dry goods and jewelry store; damage to contents $5,114, insurance $63,000. November 4, City Manufacturing Co., loss $5,000. November 29, stores of Thomas Donaghy and others, damage to contents $2,861, insurance $12,300.

The 76th annual meeting was held January 29th, 1906, at 7 30 p. m., in the Library building, President Kelley in the chair. The report of the executive committee showed there had been during the year 25 more bell alarms of fire than the previous year and that the majority of the fires were trivial. There were, however, several which required hard work by members and in a few instances all of the rubber blankets on the apparatus responding were spread in protecting property from damage by water. In several instances the society's work was praised and thanks extended. The damage to contents was $41,143 and the insurance on same was $96,300. There were three deaths during the year: Stephen D. Peirce died Feb. 24, 1905. aged 45 years. Mr. Peirce joined the society January 26, 1891. Director Charles M. Haskell died May 22, 1905, aged 67 years 6 months. Mr. Haskell became a member October 2, 1862, and was elected a director January 26, 1880. His term of service has been exceeded by but few, if any, in the society. All through his long term of service he was thoroughly interested in the work of the society and a very active member. He will be greatly missed. Robert Snow died November 15, 1905, aged 51 years Mr. Snow was elected to membership October 27, 1884.

First Director William A. Robinson, who was elected a member July 27, 1868 and a director January 28, 1878, resigned July 31, 1905. His resignation was much regretted, he having been a most active and interested officer and member. In the equipment were 69 rubber blankets, 13 of which were damaged. Otis P. Cook responded to 59 alarms of fire, a greater number than by any other member. Dr. Graves was second with 50 responses to his credit. In membership there was one vacancy The treasurer's report showed $191.03 on hand.

The resignation of Thomas H. Knowles was received and accepted. Mr. Knowles was elected April 26, 1880. He donated the sum of $25 to the society and a vote of thanks was passed. The following were elected to membership: Charles S. Baylies and Henry S. Knowles. Edmund F. Maxfield resigned as a director. Mr. Maxfield was elected to membership June 3d, 1876, and chosen a director January 31, 1881. Mr. Maxfield continues his membership. The election of officers resulted as follows:

President—Charles S. Kelley.

Directors—Edward T. Pierce, John H. Lowe, Alfred Thornton, Edward F. Penney, Henry S. Hutchinson, Alfred G. Wilbor, Thomas B. Akin, Henry P. Burt.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edmond L. Wilde.

Other members:

Geo. H. H. Allen,
James H. Bamford,
William Bamford,
Geo. W. Bennett,
John K. Blair,
Simpson J. Blossom
Standish Bourne,
Jos. Z. Boucher,
F. A. Bonneau,
Isaac H. Coe, Jr.,
R. C. P. Coggeshall,
Otis P. Cook,
Henry C. Denison,
Joseph Dias,
Ernest A. Dunham,
John Eldridge, Jr.,
James P. Francis,
Chas. H. Gifford,
Frank H. Gifford,
Thos. J. Gifford,
Fred C. Graves,
Everett Green,
Amos W. Hadley,
Edgar B. Hammond
Henry F. Hammond
John J. Howland,
Henry Howard, Jr.,
James F. Hoye,
Jas. L. Humphrey, Jr.,
Chas. S. Kelley, Jr.,
Gilbert D. King-man,
Thos. H. Knowles,

Edgar R. Lewis,	W. A. Robinson, Jr.,
Fred. B. Macy,	
Geo. I. Macy,	Morgan Rotch,
J. Roland Macy,	Gardner T. Sanford,
P. F. Manchester,	Alex. T. Smith,
J. A. E. Michaud.	D. J. Sullivan,
Willard Nye, Jr.,	Frederic Taber,
Walter H. Paige,	Wm. T. Taylor,
Chas. L. Paine,	F. E. Thilo,
David L. Parker,	Mark T. Vincent,
Samuel H. Perry,	F. A. Washburn,
Edward A. Pierce,	Wm. R. West,
William H. Pitman,	Albert F. Wilde,
Louis H. Richardson,	Edmund Wood, Horace Wood.
Arthur E. Robbins,	Thomas F. Wood,
	Clement L. Yaeger.

Corrected to Dec. 31st, 1905.

The president appointed as the standing committee Arthur E. Robbins, Henry S. Hutchinson and Mark T. Vincent. The president stated he had interviewed the chief engineer in regard to an additional supply of rubber blankets and would see him again; also members of committee on fire department.

At the quarterly meeting held April 30th, the president referred to the death of Gilbert D. Kingman and stated that the usual floral tribute was furnished for the funeral. The resignation of Ernest A. Dunham was accepted and F. M. Weeden was elected to membership. It was voted to subscribe the sum of $25 to the San Francisco Relief fund for the benefit of sufferers by the earthquake.

At the quarterly meeting held July 30th, Directors Wlibor and Penney were instructed to present to the standing committee at the next meeting an application from a citizen of the southeast section of the city, as members were needed in that part of the city.

At the quarterly meeting held October 29th, Directors Penney and Wilbor presented the name of Herbert L. Bragdon and he was elected. The president reported the death of John Eldridge, Jr. The subject of non-attendance at fires was discussed by various members, resulting in a charge of delinquency against three members.

The president stated a hearing would be held by the executive committee as provided by the rules and regulations, article 13.

A meeting of the executive committee was held January 8, 1907, for the purpose of considering the charges of delinquency preferred at a meeting of the society held October 29, 1906. The charges were considered in executive session and one member was censured for non-attendance and for failure to report to the proper officer. One was censured for failure to report his attendance at fires to the proper officer, and one was excused because of illness. The following rule was unanimously adopted:

"Failure of members to report to the proper officers their attendance at fires will not be considered a valid defence of charges of delinquency for non-attendance at fires."

It was voted to request the chief engineer to include the sum of $300 for the purchase of rubber blankets in his estimate for appropriation for 1907.

Members of the society responded to 105 bell alarms of fire in 1906; the loss on contents of buildings amounted to $36,150, the insurance upon which was $157,355. The principal fires: April 11, stores of Steiger, Dudgeon Co., National Butter Co. and Seth E. Bryant, Jr., 21-23 Purchase street; loss on contents $9,000, insurance $96,000. May 3d, residence of Mrs. Clara P. Lawton, 491 County street; loss on contents $1,900, insurance $4,000. May 15, cooperage of Dawson & Son; loss on contents $1,500, no insurance. June 5, E. Horvitz's grain store, 106 Dartmouth street and eight other buildings; loss on contents $4,800, insurance $6,150. June 10, store of P. Lebeau, 1013 Acushnet avenue; loss on contents $1,170, insurance $4,700. December 8, garage of George R. Cherry and others, 32 Court street; loss on contents $5,852, insurance $6,100. December 16, clothing store of L. Poisson and others, 80 William street; loss on contents $7,500, insurance $9,000. December 11, City hall; all blankets spread and though the building was deluged with water the loss was slight.

The 77th annual meeting of the New

Bedford Protecting society was held January 28, 1907, in the library building at 7 30 p. m., President Kelley in the chair. A moment of silence was devoted to the memory of the members who had died since 1900. The annual report of the executive committee was read, accepted and ordered spread upon the records.

The report showed the members of the society had responded to more bell alarms of fire during the year than ever before. The attendance of members at fires showed an improvement over the previous year especially during the last quarter. Generally the fires were unimportant, entailing comparatively small losses, yet there were cases where all of the rubber blankets upon the apparatus responding to the alarms were used. Much property was protected from damage through the use of the blankets and by removal from danger. There was a demonstration of the value of the blankets at the City hall fire when the fire alarm apparatus was, through their use, saved from injury, and other city property in the building protected. Under direction of the society the large painting of George Washington was removed from the hall. The equipment of the society consisted of but 59 blankets against 91 in 1895. The blankets are carried on hose wagons, ladder trucks and the chemicals. On the trucks are screw drivers, short ladders and canvas bags. We have a piano harness and a stretcher.

Death removed two members during the year—Gilbert D. Kingman, who died March 21, 1906, and John Eldredge, Jr., who died October 26, 1906, both good and efficient members and long in the service. Mr. Kingman joined the society July 27, 1875, and Mr. Eldredge October 26, 1891. Four members have resigned and four have been elected. The waiting list numbers 12. Chief Engineer Dahill included in his estimates of appropriations for the fire department for 1907 the sum of $300 for rubber blankets. The statement of the treasurer of the society showed $198.61 cash on hand.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Charles S. Kelley.
First Director—John H. Lowe.
Second Director—Alfred Thornton.
Third Director—Edward F. Penney.
Fourth Director—Henry S. Hutchinson.
Fifth Director—Alfred G. Wilbor.
Sixth Director—Thomas B. Akin.
Seventh Director—Henry P. Burt.
Eighth Director—Fred M. Weeden.
Secretary and Treasurer—Edmond L. Wilde.

The president appointed Arthur E. Robbins, Henry S. Hutchinson, and Mark T. Vincent as the standing committee.

First Director Edward T. Pierce, much to the regret of the society, declined a re-election as a director and resigned his membership in the society. Mr. Pierce was elected a member January 28, 1879, and upon his father declining a re-election as director he was elected a director. The resignation of Edgar B. Hammond was tendered and accepted. Mr. Hammond was elected to membership October 28, 1895.

William F. Potter and Arthur D. Delano were elected to membership. Adjourned.

At a meeting of the executive committee held April 16 the list of attendance at fires as reported to the secretary was submitted to the committee and it was voted to instruct the secretary to notify seventeen members that at the next meeting of the society the executive committee would prefer charges of delinquency against them.

At the quarterly meeting held April 29 the president reported that six lanterns had by order of Chief Dahill been placed upon the various hose-wagons and ladder trucks for the use of the society. The resignations of Gardner T. Sanford, Henry C. Denison, Thomas F. Wood, James H. Bamford, William Bamford, F. E. Thilo, and J. A. E. Michaud were presented and accepted. Mr. Sanford was elected a

member January 24, 1870, having served faithfully 37 years. H C. Denison, October 28, 1873; Thomas F. Wood, April 28, 1884; James H. Bamford, April 25, 1892; William Bamford, April 28, 1890; F. E. Thilo, January 30, 1899; J. A. E. Michaud, April 24, 1905; all having done good work

The following were elected to membership: George L. Olivier, Harry C. Brightman, William S. Bourne, Samuel C. Hunt, Egbert G. Bullard, Thomas Gregory, Amie J. Porier. The executive committee preferred charges of delinquency against 13 of the 17 members previously referred to, four having resigned. The secretary was instructed to notify the members of the charges and of a meeting at which the hearing would be held as provided by rules and regulations, article 13. A motion to consider the advisability of increasing the membership of the society from 75 to 100 was laid on the table.

A meeting of the executive committee was held in the Board of Trade rooms June 21, at which a hearing was given members against whom charges of delinquency had been made. Each member was heard in regard to the charges against him, after which the committee went into executive session. The result was six were censured, three were censured and placed on probation, one excused because of sickness, one tabled and two adjudged in contempt for not attending the meeting and neglecting to send an excuse. The secretary was instructed to notify those in contempt, of a further hearing. The president and the secretary were instructed to review the rules and regulations and have those applying to the attendance at fires printed and mailed to each member.

At a meeting of the executive committee held July 1, for the purpose of giving a hearing to those in contempt, it was stated by the secretary that the gentlemen had been given due notice of the meeting. As neither of the members put in an appearance they both were by vote discharged from membership in the society.

At the quarterly meeting held July 29 the president reported the action taken by the executive committee in relation to the various delinquencies. The resignation of Edmund Wood was tendered and accepted. Mr. Wood was elected a member April 30, 1883, was made a director January 26, 1885, and declined a re-election January 25, 1904. Chester P. Rexford and Hyman Mendelson were elected to membership. The meeting adjourned, subject to the call of the president.

The adjourned meeting of July 29, 1907, was held in room No. 8. in the library building at 7 30 p. m., August 13, President Kelley in the chair. The resignation of William R. West was received and accepted. Mr. West was elected a member August 27, 1884. Charles L. Sharples was elected to membership.

President Charles S. Kelley tendered his resignation after 37 years membership in the society, 26 years of the time serving as president. He thanked the members for their courtesy at meetings and for their support at fires. In speaking of his long service he stated there was but one member remaining who was in the society at the time he joined it. Mr. Thornton moved that the resignation be laid upon the table. President Kelley insisted that his decision was final and requested that the resignation be accepted. Mr. Hutchinson moved that the resignation be accepted with great regret and it was so voted. Director Alfred Thornton was then called to the chair by Mr. Kelley.

It was voted on motion of Mr. Hutchinson that a committee be appointed by the chair to decide on appropriate action in recognition of Mr. Kelley's long and faithful service. The chair appointed Messrs. Hutchinson, Wilbor, Burt, Wilde and Thornton as the committee.

On motion of Mr. Frederick B. Macy it was voted that Mr. Kelley be allowed to retain his badge.

The matter of the vacancy in the office of president was referred to the next quarterly meeting. Adjourned.

The Evening Standard of August 14, 1907, in its remarks on Mr. Kelley's resignation, said:

Mr. Kelley was admitted to membership Jan. 24, 1870, was elected a director May 9, 1877, and president Feb. 1, 1881, serving in that capacity continuously for 26 years. While president through his personal efforts he induced the fire insurance companies to contribute a sufficient sum of money to purchase for the society over 30 rubber blankets to be used to protect furniture and stocks of goods from damage by water at fires, by the use of which large amounts of property have been saved, and the society relieved of much work through removing goods and furniture. The blankets were first used in 1883.

In 1885 the members of the society were districted after the manner of other branches of the fire department, lessening the labor of the members and not impairing its efficiency, rather increasing it. Other changes have been inaugurated which have proven advantageous. During his presidency the membership was increased from 50 to 75. It is estimated that Mr. Kelley since he joined the society has attended about 1,500 fires. He considered it his duty to attend all fires when possible, not considering himself included among those districted.

It may be of interest to note that since he became a member that death has removed of the then members all but 14, and of the officers of the society at that time all but two, David S. Bliss and George R. Phillips, who resigned several years ago, all of the board of fire engineers then in office and all of the chief engineers, five in number, excepting the present efficient chief, Edward F. Dahill. Of the board of directors chosen when Mr. Kelley was first elected to the presidency none are holding office, three having died and three resigned. The secretary and treasurer has also passed away. But very few men have remained so long in the fire department or held office so long as he.

At a special meeting of the society held August 22, First Director John H. Lowe called the meeting to order. It was voted to accept the invitation of the board of engineers to join with the rest of the fire department in the Old Home and Textile Carnival parade to be held August 27, and turn out with as many members as possible, and a committee consisting of Lowe, chairman; Wilde, Akin and Burt, was appointed to make the required arrangements with authority to incur necessary expenses. It was voted to invite ex-President Kelley to parade with the society. The resignation of Joseph Z. Boucher was accepted.

At a meeting of the committee appointed to consider and report some action in recognition of ex-President Kelley's services to the society, held September 23, it was voted to recommend that a silver loving cup be procured and presented to Mr. Kelley with suitable resolutions, and Messrs. Thornton and Wilde were appointed to draft resolutions.

At the quarterly meeting held October 28, 1907, First Director John H. Lowe called the meeting to order. There were present 47 members. The chairman reported the death of Edward A. Peirce which occurred October 24, 1907. Mr. Peirce became a member of the society April 24, 1905, and so long as he was in good health was one of the society's most active members, attending nearly all fires, even though the alarms were not from boxes assigned him. He was a faithful and efficient worker. A note of sympathy and flowers were sent to the family and the society was represented at the funeral.

The carnival committee reported that 25 members took part in the parade on Governor's day during the Old Home Week and Textile Carnival. The expenses were $35.

Mr. Cook nominated John H. Lowe for president, and Mr. Hutchinson nominated Alfred G. Wilbor. Mr. Wilbor had 15 votes and Mr. Lowe 27 and Mr. Lowe was declared elected. The resignation of Standish Bourne was accepted. Mr. Bourne became a member April 28, 1884, having done much good work in his 23 years service.

The following were elected new members: Clarence A. Bates, Isaiah C. Wagner and Edward B. Robbins.

The vacancy in the board of directors was referred to the next meeting.

Monday evening, November 4, 1907, John H. Lowe, the new president of the society and the entire board of

directors, together with the secretary, waited upon the former president, Charles S. Kelley, at his residence and presented him, on behalf of the society, a handsome silver loving cup and a set of resolutions expressive of the society's appreciation of his thirty-seven years of service as member, director and president.

The president and directors had been appointed to carry out this pleasant duty on behalf of the society, and they laid their plans so well that Mr. Kelley was completely taken by surprise. In fact at quarter past eight he was told by his son that the secretary of the society, Edmond L. Wilde, would shortly be in to see him about Protecting Society matters. Mr. Kelley was at that time busily engaged in reviving a historical sketch of the society, and welcomed Mr. Wilde's call particularly as he had some questions to ask him about the work in hand. His surprise can be imagined when five minutes later President Lowe and the eight directors dropped in on him.

When Mr. Kelley had somewhat recovered from his surprise at receiving so many callers when he had expected but one, Henry S. Hutchinson took the floor and in a few well chosen words tendered to Mr. Kelley the following set of resolutions:

> The members of The New Bedford Protecting Society received with deep regret the resignation of Charles S. Kelley as its President and as a member of the Society.
>
> They desire to place on record their appreciation of the splendid service he has rendered in connection with the work of the Society and the high esteem in which they held him as a public spirited citizen.
>
> Mr. Kelley became a member of the Society in 1870, thirty-seven years ago. In 1877 he was made a director, and in 1881 was elected President, which office he held for twenty-six years. His management of the affairs of the Society has been marked with conspicuous ability and efficiency. Under his leadership the Society has developed in usefulness. To the first stroke of the fire alarm he never failed to give prompt response and with zeal, earnestness, and good judgment directed the work of protecting from flames the property in peril.
>
> His withdrawal from the activities of a public service to which for many years, without compensation, he gave a rare ability and experience in the protection of property when endangered by fire, is a positive loss to the community. He has earned the good wishes of all his associates, who will ever remember his uniform kindness and courtesy and his useful and never failing discharge of official duty.
>
> **Resolved.**
>
> That the above minute be entered on the records of the Society and a copy transmitted to Mr. Kelley.
>
> Adopted October 17th, 1907.
>
> (Signed) John H. Lowe,
> Chairman.
>
> (Signed) Edmond L. Wilde,
> Secretary.

Mr. Kelley responded as well as he could under the circumstances and naturally supposed that the matter was ended, when his surprise was redoubled by the presentation of the silver cup by Mr. Hutchinson. The cup is a beautiful example in sterling silver of the jeweler's art, and stands six inches high on a 4-inch ebony pedestal. The finish is old English, which is very much in vogue just now. On the face is the following inscription:

Presented
to
CHARLES S. KELLEY,
by the
New Bedford Protecting Society,
October 28, 1907,
in recognition of his
Thirty-seven Years Continuous
Service.

On the reverse side is the following:

LOVING CUP PRESENTED CHARLES S. KELLEY
RETIRING PRESIDENT OF THE PROTECTING SOCIETY

Elected a Member

January 24th, 1870.

DIRECTOR, 1877-1881.

PRESIDENT, 1881-1907.

Refreshments, which were necessarily light owing to the unexpectedness of the occasion, were served, and a pleasant hour was spent in a discussion of past experiences and reminiscenses of the old hand engine days.

Mr. Kelley highly appreciates the spirit which prompted the preparation of the testimonial and the sentiment it contains as well as the presentation of the beautiful cup. He will always treasure them and hold the donors in kindly remembrance.

The city purchased during the latter part of 1907 18 new rubber blankets, bringing the total number up to 76, some of which are in poor condition. The society has the promise from agents of companies doing business in our city of donations, which will enable the society to replace the poor blankets with new ones and provide for a larger number in reserve.

The place of meetings of the society has by vote of the executive committee been changed to the Board of Trade rooms.

In the year 1907 members of the society responded to 122 bell alarms of fire, which was the greatest number in its history. The losses on contents of buildings by fire and water amounted to $8,346.49, the insurance on which was $82,425. The principal fires were: February 24, at No. 18 North Water street, antique store of A. C. Fuller, loss on contents $675, insurance $1,000. September 2, at 342 to 346 South First street and rear 487 South Water street, bakery, dwelling and barn occupied by M. Shapiro and Mr. Stewart, Peter A. Herman and Mr. Souza, damage to contents $1,102.63, insurance $6,600. December 8, at 517 South Water street, store and dwelling occupied by Jan Koluezewski and others, damage to contents $1,565, insurance $2,075. December 22, at 93 Mt. Pleasant street, dwelling occupied by Ludger Poisson, damage to contents $1,500, insurance $1,500. All other losses were less than $500 each.

The membership at the close of 1907 was 72. The list follows:

Officers.

President—John H. Lowe.

Directors—Alfred Thornton, Edward F. Penney, Henry S. Hutchinson, Alfred G. Wilbor, Thomas B. Akin, Henry P. Burt, Fred M. Weeden.

Secretary and Treasurer—Edmond L. Wilde.

Members.

Geo. H. H. Allen,	George I. Macy,
Clarence A. Bates,	J. Roland Macy,
Geo. W. Bennett,	P. F. Manchester,
Chas. S. Baylies,	Edmund F. Maxfield,
John K. Blair,	
Simpson J. Blossom,	Hyman Mendelson,
Wm. S. Bourne,	Willard Nye, Jr.
F. A. Bonneau,	Walter H. Paige,
Harry C. Brightman,	Chas. L. Paine,
	David L. Parker,
Egbert G. Bullard,	Samuel H. Perry,
Isaac H. Coe, Jr.,	William H. Pitman,
R. C. P. Coggeshall,	Amie J. Porier,
Otis P. Cook,	Wm. F. Potter,
Arthur D. Delano,	Geo. L. Olivier,
Joseph Dias,	Chester P. Rexford,
James P. Francis,	Edward B. Robbins,
Chas. H. Gifford,	Louis H. Richardson,
Frank H. Gifford,	
Thos. J. Gifford,	Arthur E. Robbins,
Fred C. Graves,	W. A. Robinson,
Thos. Gregory,	Jr.,
Amos W. Hadley,	Morgan Rotch,
Henry F. Hammond	Chas. L. Sharples,
John J. Howland,	Alex. T. Smith,
Henry Howard, Jr.,	D. J. Sullivan,
James F. Hoye,	Frederic Taber,
Jas. L. Humphrey, Jr.,	Wm. T. Taylor,
	Mark T. Vincent,
Samuel C. Hunt,	Isaiah C. Wagner,
Chas. S. Kelley, Jr.,	F. A. Washburn,
Henry S. Knowles,	Albert F. Wilde,
Edgar R. Lewis,	Horace Wood,
Frederick B. Macy,	Clement L. Yaeger.

The waiting list numbers ten.

Before closing this history I will state that the purposes for which the New Bedford Protecting society was organized have from the beginning justified its existence. Its members have saved several lives besides vast amounts of property from destruction or damage by fire and water and from theft. It has by contribution of money helped to relieve needy sufferers by fire in various states in the Union; by personal contributions and solicitations

of contributions from the public relieved suffering by fires in our own city to the extent of thousands of dollars. It has relieved the sick in not a few instances.

Lest it be thought that because of the few fires enumerated in this history, the society did but little work, I will say that only fires where the losses on contents amounted to $1,000 or over are mentioned, and that those fires where the losses were under that amount were many times greater than those exceeding that amount, and the losses were kept down as a result of the good work of the society and the other branches of the fire department, though while they fought fire we had to contend against both fire and water damage. But very few fires occur when no rubber blankets are used.

That the society will achieve even greater results in the future I am confident. There is always room for improvement.

It may also be of interest to the public to learn that from time to time many of the members have occupied positions of honor and trust, such as one congressman, a governor of this state, collector of customs, postmasters, members of the legislature, a superior court judge, mayors of our city, a chief of the fire department, bank and mill presidents and treasurers.

The author having been asked his opinion as to the value of the property saved from damage by fire and water, and from theft, by the society, from its organization in 1829 to 1907, will say that it is impossible for any one to state with any degree of accuracy, the amount of salvage. As records are kept by fire departments of the losses only, any answer to the question must be the result of an estimate, and a rough one at that. As a result of much research, I estimate the number of alarms of fires in the 78 years of the society's existence as 2,621. We had 1,419 alarms, an average of 59 per year, during the 24 years we have had a supply of rubber blankets, and our average number of blankets has been about 60. During several of the 24 years we have saved as high as $50,000 in a single year; in a very few instances more, in many years less. It is fair to assume the average as about $25,000 annually for the 24 years, or an aggregate of about $600,000.

Between 1870 and 1883, thirteen years, we had for most of the time two large rubber blankets, 18 feet by 10 feet, I think. During those years there were 369 alarms of fire, an average of about 28 per year, with a salvage of $16,000 per annum, aggregating $208,000. From 1860 to 1870, ten years, call it $10,000 per year, or $100,000 in the aggregate; in the years from 1829 to 1860, $5,000 per year, which is a low estimate, aggregating $155,000; a grand total of $1,050,000. So I think it safe to say the society has saved in its 78 years of its existence not less than $1,000,000, at a total cost to the town and city of New Bedford of not over $12,000.

I desire through this medium to thank Chief Engineer Edward F. Dahill and his clerk, Joseph P. Kennedy, for valuable assistance in compiling this history and, I may here say that the chief has inaugurated a most comprehensive system for the management, control and oversight of our fire department; it may be equalled in other cities but certainly not surpassed.

I am also in debt to Mr. George H. Tripp, the Free Public Library librarian, for courtesies and aid extended.

In conclusion I desire briefly to call attention to the splendid work of our fire department. As an evidence of its efficiency it is only necessary to state that the average annual losses by fire and water to buildings and contents during the past 40 years from 1868 to 1907, inclusive, were but $38,878.71, and last year with 122 bell alarms of fire, the largest number ever recorded, the losses totalled but $20,698.02. Such a remarkably good record is not equalled in any city in the Union where conditions so inviting to a conflagration have for at least half a century

existed, referring, of course, to our city being a wooden city. This excellent record is not due to good luck, as many are inclined to call it, but to an efficient fire department well officered; to prompt response to alarms and quick time made in reaching the fire, thus preventing conflagrations; to the judicious use of water; to keeping the apparatus always in good condition, and when new is needed purchasing only the best; and, as the city grows, to building and equipping new engine houses that the territory may be well covered. It has often been said that if conditions were only right we would have had a conflagration at certain fires. Well, I have seen in my 37 years' experience in the fire department many instances when conditions were ripe for a great conflagration, but it never got beyond the control of the department or became what might be called a very serious fire.

THE END.

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